



# ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the  
Irish Radio Transmitters Society  
April/May 2008



**Irish Radio Transmitters Society  
Annual General Meeting 2008  
Hosted by  
Galway Radio Experimenters Club  
at the Salthill Hotel.**

Top Picture: Members of the organising committee: Enda EI2II; Tom EI3ER; Fr. Finbarr EI1CS, IRTS President; Ciaran EI8IH; Ronan EI8HJ; Joe Hernon EI3HM, Damian EI2HG.

Left: Mayor of Galway City - Councillor Tom Costello.

Right: John Breen representing the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources.



Tom EI3ER, Chairman GREC



Fr. Finbarr EI1CS, President IRTS



Sean EI7CD, Hon-Vice President IRTS

## Society Officers 2008/2009

President:	Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS	021-4346622	buckleyf1@eircom.net
Vice President:	Paul Martin EI2CA	087-2523908	paul@comma.ie
Hon. Vice-Presidents:	Sean Nolan EI7CD	01-2851599	ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie
	Dave Moore EI4BZ	087-6290574	ei4bz@eircom.net
Auditors:	Brendan De hÓra, EI3GV; Brendan Lynch, EI6GA		
Secretary:	Ger Gervin EI8CC	062-47008	gerry.gervin@dfa.ie
Treasurer:	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	donelansean@gmail.com
P.R.O.	Paul Martin EI2CA	087-2523908	paul@comma.ie
AREN Co-Ordinator:	John Ronan EI7IG	086 8167310	ei7ig@aren.ie
Awards Committee:	Peter Grant EI4HX (Chair)	087-9772904	ei4hxpperimental@eircom.net
	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX, Pat O'Connor EI9HX.		
ComReg Liaison	Sean Nolan EI7CD	01-2851599	ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie
Contest Manager:	Thos Caffrey EI2JD	087-2953256	thoscaffrey@hotmail.com
EMC:	Brendan Minish EI6IZ	086-2501832	ei6iz.Brendan@gmail.com
EuroCom	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	donelansean@gmail.com
Gaeilge:	Pádraig Ó Meachair EI7GK	0404-67658	ei7gk@esatclear.ie
External Awards/WEIC:	Sean Nolan, EI7CD	01-2851599	ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie
IARU	Sean Nolan, EI7CD	01-2851599	ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie
IARUMS	Ger McNamara EI4GXB		ei4gxb@gmail.com
IRTS Shop:	Peter Grant EI4HX	087-9772904	ei4hxpperimental@eircom.net
Membership Officer:	Joe Ryan EI7GY	01-2854250	jryan@iol.ie
Morse Testing Co-Ord.:	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	donelansean@gmail.com
Chief Morse Tester:	Dan Lloyd EI3AE	01-8382774	danielloyd@eircom.net
P.O. Box 462	Michael McNamara EI2CL	01-8372493	ei2clmike@eircom.net
Publications Editor:	Dave Moore EI4BZ	021-4883555	ei4bz@eircom.net
Publications Distribution	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	donelansean@gmail.com
Radio News Editor:	Mark Wall EI7IS	087-6302026	cyberis@vodafone.ie
Repeater Co-ordinator	John McCarthy EI8JA		
Theory Examination	Sean Nolan EI7CD	01-2851599	ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie
	(Sub – Committee Chairman)		
VHF Manager:	Robbie Phelan		
WAI Awards Manager:	Tom Rea EI2GP	093-35523	tomrea@eircom.net
WAI Book Sales:	Noel Mulvihill EI6HW	0906-474726	nfmulvihill@eircom.net
Webmaster:	Joe Ryan EI7GY	01-2854250	jryan@iol.ie

## QSL Bureau

QSL Inwards Manager:	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX.	041-9841817	patfitzpatrick@hotmail.com
QSL Outwards Manager:	Tony Baldwin EI8JK		ei8jk@amsat.org
Incoming QSL Sub Managers:			
0/1/Calls & SWL:	John Browne EI7FAB.		
2 Series Calls:	Thos Caffrey EI2JD	087-2953256	thoscaffrey@hotmail.com
3 Series Calls:	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX.	041-9841817	patfitzpatrick@hotmail.com
4 Series Calls:	Jim Ryan EI3DP	021-4632365	sigma4@oceanfree.net
5 Series Calls	Andy Jay EI5JF		ei5jf@dna.ie
6 Series Calls:	Rory Hinchy EI4DJB		rhinchy@iee.org
7 Series Calls	Ger McNamara EI4GXB		ei4gxb@gmail.com
8 Series Calls:	Brian Canning EI8IU	086-2514822	brianei8iu@eircom.net
9 Series Calls:	Dave Deane EI9FBB	083-3317940	ei9fbb@oceanfree.net

## News Bulletins and Readers

<b>Sunday</b>			
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC, Roland EI4GYB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB (as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB As 1100
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM Tommy EI7IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM As 1145
<b>Monday</b>			
Cork	2000	145.750	FM Con EI7DJB, Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.675	FM Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.625	FM Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC
<b>Tuesday</b>			
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM Gareth EI7FZB, Robbie EI8FZB

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**Next**  
**IRTS Committee Meeting**  
**Saturday August 9th 2008**  
**The Comfort Inn**  
**Portlaoise**  
**11.00am**

## Committee Members 2008/09

### Elected

Thos Caffrey, EI2JD  
 Sean Donelan, EI4GK  
 Ger McNamara, EI4GXB  
 Brendan Minish, EI6IZ  
 Mark Condon, EI6JK  
 Joe Ryan, EI7GY  
 John Ronan, EI7IG  
 Seamus McCague, EI8BP  
 Ger Gervin, EI8CC  
 John McCarthy, EI8JA  
 Pat O'Connor, EI9HX

### Co-Opted

Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX  
 Sean Nolan EI7CD

## Dave Deane EI9FBB Appointed ARRL Card Checker



From the very first days of ham radio, proof of contact in the form of QSL cards was very popular and led eventually to the establishment of the DX Century Club (DXCC), the most popular award programme within the hobby.

As this award is sponsored and run by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national society for amateurs in the United States, it has been necessary for EI experimenters to forward their QSL cards to ARRL HQ in Newington, CT in the USA to claim their awards. While several other countries have ARRL appointed card checkers, until now we did not have this great facility.

After almost 12 months of negotiations with the ARRL, David Deane, EI9FBB has been appointed as an ARRL card checker and effective immediately, is able to check cards for credit towards ARRL awards; i.e. DXCC, VUCC & WAS.

Having an International award checker on our doorstep is valuable for many reasons;

1. It helps eliminate the risk of one's cards going through the postal system,
2. The exact costing can be calculated prior to application,
3. A faster, more efficient service can be expected,
4. Advice and assistance can be given locally,
5. Will also act as a correspondent regarding any issues with an ARRL award.
6. Is also able to check cards from anyone residing outside the country, eg. GI

As this position is reviewed after each and every 2 year period, we ask for your support in this and hopefully, we can look

forward to an increase of awareness and participation in the DXCC program. We wish Dave every success on this new appointment.

While Dave is a relatively new licensee, he has been involved in the hobby for many years, having sat and passed his theory examination about ten years before actually applying for a callsign. He is a very active DXer and has achieved outstanding results operating from very restrictive urban locations in Cork City.

**083-3317940    ei9fbb@oceanfree.net**

### Guidelines for Submitting Cards

The following has been extracted from the ARRL website noting the guidelines required in submitting an application. Complete rules can be found at : <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/rules.html#siv>

#### 3) Card Checking Process:

- a) Only eligible cards can be checked by DXCC Card Checkers. An application for a new award shall contain a minimum of 100 QSL confirmations from the list and shall not contain any QSLs that are not eligible for this program. Additional cards may not be sent to HQ with field checked applications. The application may contain any number of cards, subject to eligibility requirements and fees as determined.
- b) It is the applicant's responsibility to get cards to and from the DXCC Card Checker.
- c) Checkers may, at their own discretion, handle members' cards by mail.
- d) The ARRL is not responsible for cards handled by DXCC Card Checkers and will not honor any claims.
- e) The QSL cards may be checked by one DXCC Card Checker.
- f) The applicant and DXCC Card Checker must sign the application form. (See Section I no. 11 regarding altered, forged or otherwise invalid confirmations.)
- g) The applicant shall provide a stamped no. 10 envelope (business size) addressed to ARRL HQ to the DXCC Card Checker. The applicant shall also provide the applicable fees (check or money order payable to ARRL-no cash, credit card number and expiration date is also acceptable).
- h) The DXCC Card Checker will forward completed applications and appropriate fee(s) to ARRL HQ.

#### 4) ARRL HQ involvement in the card checking process:

- a) ARRL HQ staff will receive field-checked applications, enter application data into DXCC records and issue DXCC credits and awards as appropriate.
- b) ARRL HQ staff will perform random audits of applications. Applicants or members may be requested to forward cards to HQ for checking before or after credit is issued.
- c) The applicant and the DXCC Card Checker will be advised of any errors or discrepancies encountered by ARRL staff.
- d) ARRL HQ staff provides instructions and guidelines to DXCC Card Checkers, whom have to complete an open book test about DXCC rules concerning QSL cards and the Card Checker training guide.
- 5) Applicants and DXCC members may send cards to ARRL HQ at any time for review or recheck if the individual feels that an incorrect determination has been made.

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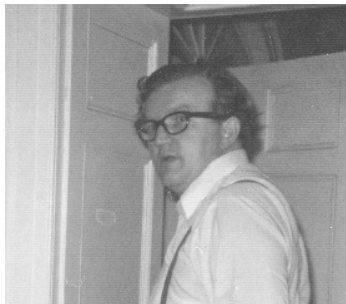
Dave Moore, EI4BZ  
Dooneen, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork  
[ei4bz@eircom.net](mailto:ei4bz@eircom.net)

021-4883555/087-6290574

The views expressed in Echo Ireland do not necessarily represent the views of the Society or the Editor

# Silent Key

## Sean Hurley EI4DA An Appreciation.



John P. Hurley EI4DA, who has died in San Antonio, Texas, was affectionately known to one and all as Sean.

He was born in Ballydehob, Co. Cork, the son of a local shop keeper. After leaving school he joined the Apprentice School of the Aer Corps and trained as an aircraft mechanic.

After successfully graduating, he eventually travelled to England where he was to become the founder of one of the largest contract labour agencies in Europe.

He opened an office in New York and during this time, he trained and earned his private pilot's licence at Ft. Worth, Texas. He was also the holder of a helicopter pilot's licence and ended up purchasing a twin engine Aztec, a 170 Cessna and a Bell helicopter.

In the early 70's he returned to Ireland and settled in Ballymackeogh House, Newport, Co. Tipperary, from where he continued to conduct his very successful worldwide business.

At the time I was working for the Dept. Post & Telegraphs and lecturing in electronics at the local technical institute which later became the Limerick Institute of Technology.

Our first meeting was to come about in a rather curious way. Sean always had a great interest in communications and had purchased and had installed his own Telsa telephone exchange in Ballymackeogh House.

Post Office regulations at that time required that all PABXs connected to the public service had to be of a certain standard in order to be accepted by the Department. Sean's equipment and installa-

tion passed with flying colours.

After a period of time, the equipment developed a fault which for some unknown reason could not be resolved, despite the best efforts of engineers both private and official.

Eventually I was asked to have a look; they had after all nothing to lose, everyone else had had a go.

I eventually narrowed the fault down to a dirty relay contact. All this time, Sean was observing everything I was doing, so when I asked him for a match box (in order to clean the relay contact with the sulphur part of the box) he must have thought he had seen it all now!

When his PABX came to life, he invited me into his office for a coffee and so began a friendship that was to last until his death.

On his desk, I noticed a communications receiver which I started playing with.

This really caught his attention; radio fascinated him and it was then he informed me that one of the greatest ambitions of his life was to become an amateur radio operator but he could not pass the examination. This I couldn't believe, for hanging on the walls of his office were certificates bearing testimony to all his business, mechanical and technical attributes.

Some of the finest amateur operators in EI had tried to help but unfortunately did not succeed. As a teacher, this was a challenge I could not resist.

During a visit to his home, I was sitting in the lounge attached to the main house; this was where Sean entertained visiting business men. It was then I noticed a new electronic organ at the end of the room and not wanting to interfere in his discussions I ambled down to the organ and started 'tinkling the ivories'; music was a great love of mine. It was then I noticed that the keys were numbered which I considered strange. I played the organ, as numbered, and the tune that followed was 'Happy Birthday to you'.

It suddenly dawned on me why Sean could not pass the CW exam; he was tone deaf! I proved this by cleaning off the numbers on the key board and then invited Sean to play it. This was the only time I saw him lose it. He explained to me that he had a bet with a German business man, that on his next visit to Bally-

mackeogh, Sean would play 'Happy Birthday to you' on the organ (his friend was aware of Sean's hearing problem but had not bargained on Sean's tenacity).

I constructed a small variable frequency oscillator and gave Sean a pair of headphones and instructed him to nod his head when he recognised the tone.

After that it was plain sailing and within 20 weeks Sean was the proud holder of his new licence, EI4DA.

I was to be his first CW contact which was made on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1976.

Sean's gratitude knew no boundaries, a little time after gaining his licence he built me a new shack as an extension to my house and then fully equipped it with equipment I could only dream of, including the famous Collins 'S' line.

On another occasion, he decided to visit the RSGB exhibition in London.

Sean flew his own plane to the event, included in the passengers was my then 12 year old son Gerard, now EI4GXB.

On that occasion we were introduced to the famous Louis Varney, G5RV and D. A. Tong, inventor of the great Datong filter among many other greats of amateur radio. He purchased various bits-and-pieces; he always bought two of the same, one for me and one for him.

Some people credit me with putting EI on the DX map. That is an unjustified accolade; all the credit is due to Sean.

At the end of 1975 Sean had asked me how could we win the CQ World Wide Contest? I replied without thinking 'with your money and my brains'.

Never one to refuse a challenge, the next day he brought in a construction crew and began constructing an aerial farm and I mean an aerial farm! Construction began on 7 tilt-over towers, a 3 element 160m mono-band beam, 5 element 160m mono-band 80m beam, 7 element 40m mono-band beam, plus mono banders for 10,15,20, all at 120 feet.

We also had a 2 mile long terminated long wire. This was a gigantic engineering/construction task but was to prove our 'secret weapon'; he even installed a stand-by generator in the event of an ESB failure and imported the first 'lap top' into EI land; a monster measuring 4ft. By 2ft. Sean never did things by half!

*(Continued on page 5)*



(Continued from page 4)

In 1976 EI9CB/EI4DA, won the ARRL Bi-Centennial Contest; this was to prove the prelude to many more great successes.

In 1980, EI9CB entered the CQWW DX SSB contest. The team consisted of EI9CB, EI4DA and we invited our friends N8ET, K8MR, G3UKS and G4CEB to join us. Our two friends from G-land were members of the famous Cavendish Laboratory of the University of Cambridge's Department of Physics and they had their own secret weapon, the new prototype Marconi multi-band digital receiver; 'if you can't hear them you can't work them'.

This was to prove a fabulous contest; sunspot activity was at its best for years and due to our preparations, we felt very confident of a good outcome.

During the 48 hour contest among the many things we achieved included working 5BDXCC, 5BWAS and 5BWAZ. The contest log was submitted to CQ magazine and when the provisional results were published, EI9CB was placed 1<sup>st</sup> place in the world but when the final results were published we had been relegated to 2<sup>nd</sup> place. What had happened? For the first time ever, we had submitted a computerised contest log and when the hand written log was transferred to the computer format, 12 pages were omitted. This omission came to light when our QSL manager, WA1UVX contacted us and explained that he had received 100's of QSL cards for verification and on checking our computerised log could find no record of the QSO's. They were however on the original hand-written log.

I am convinced that if the 12 pages had been included, EI9CB would have created a world record that would have been hard to equal to this day.

The EI9CB contest effort of 1980 was to become one of the first amateur radio victims of modern technology.

Our final score was 9,364,212

points; our provisionally claimed score had been in excess of 14 million points.

For various reasons Sean went to live in Cyprus where he operated as 5B4HF.

He had radio masts manufactured in Ireland and shipped to Cyprus; that was the kind of dedication to the hobby that Sean displayed.

It was also during this period that he introduced me to the Saudi Royal house, via ham radio which eventually led to me meeting the late JY1 King Hussein of Jordan here in Ireland; a meeting I will never forget; that's the kind of friend Sean Hurley was.

When he went to live in America, he settled in San Antonio, Texas. Due to pressure of business, we eventually lost contact.

Sean had to put amateur radio on the back burner; he virtually went QRT.

His time in Texas was not a happy time for him. He lost his eldest son Patrick, a victim of cancer.

Nearly 20 years was to elapse before I had contact with him again.

To my surprise early this year, he rang me and said that he had been trying for years to locate me but to no avail, the reason was that I had moved QTH and failed to inform him of my new location; it was as simple as that.

He eventually traced me via the web site QRZ. During what was to be our last conversation he informed that it was his intention to travel to Limerick this year for a reunion with his old comrades from his time in the Irish Aer Corps where we could meet up.

Alas, this was not to be; last week he succumbed to cancer.

Sean Hurley may be gone to his eternal reward, but he will never be forgotten.

To his lovely wife Nitza, son Marco and daughters Maria and Julia, I extend my sincere sympathy.

*Fao bhrat Mhuire go raibh sé*

Pat McNamara, "9 Charlie Brown".

## " Hello Two" A tribute to the late John EI8DL by Rupert EI2FD

On patrol one very wet night somewhere in the area of Ballyconnell/Swanlinbar breaking the static on the land rover radio came these two words. The voice of authority, but in a warm friendly manner and this was the start of a friendship that lasted over thirty years.

When I first met John he was a young man with a young family starting out in life.

We had a lot in common and top of the list was RADIO. Between us we had a lot of friends with the same interest so we decided to do something about it.

After failing to get a class going in the Technical School in Longford due to not having a teacher, we came up with a new idea.

Since John was in signals, we had a great tutor in CW, so this was half the battle.

As it happened Tom McLoughlin had just finished his electronics course. This was our man - now the buzz was taking hold.

A plan to meet in a members house in turn, every week for our theory and CW class worked very well and before long we were ready for our theory and CW tests.

Both John EI8DL and Tom EI9DL passed and as a result the BUZZ really took off. We then formed a club with the callsign EI8DO so now there was no stopping us and field days were held at Corn Hill, Saints Island, Barley Harbour and a few more locations.

This is where John's skills began to shine in organising every thing and everybody but when he got on that CW key it was like music.

During this time more tests were passed and new callsigns appeared including Tony EI4ED, Robbie EI2EL, Patsy EI8FG (RIP) and many SWLs.

While he lived in London he was still very much involved with radio as he was controller and dispatcher for a major security company, as well as his hobby CW etc.

As I lived near him we often met or went for a meal and a beer of course not forgetting the station managers, Hi.

Words can not fill the void in so many peoples lives with his passing away.

John was a very private person, he lived for his family and his radio.

I am so proud to have known him, a very true friend to every one.

Sincere Sympathy to all his family.

May he Rest in Peace

" HELLO TWO OVER & OUT "



# HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Welcome to the latest edition of HF Happenings.

Anyone who was active over the past few weeks could certainly see a vast improvement in conditions on the higher of the HF bands since the first sighting of Cycle 24 appeared. Conditions are rapidly improving, what with 20m often staying open until well into the 'small hours' and also more frequent and longer openings from 17 Metres upwards. In fact, at the time of writing, 10 Metres is buzzing with the musical rhythm from the WPX CW contest and in fact, some very loud SSB signals are heard on both 10 & 12 M. Hands up – the 'e' season is upon us!!

## TX5C – Clipperton Island.

Re-capping from last issue, one may recall that the much awaited Clipperton Island operation was gracing the bands along with the unusual callsign of TX5C. This large multi-national team went QRT at 1400z March 15th 2008, two days earlier than originally planned.

Due to both weather and sea conditions, the Captain of the Shogun determined that an earlier departure was required to ensure the safety of his crew and the team. The team began moving equipment offshore two days prior in challenging conditions. By the time the last team members were extracted from the atoll late in the day, all but one of the zodiac spare propellers had been broken on the reef. The Shogun pulled anchor at 0130z March 16th and as the sun set, the team watched Clipperton Atoll slowly fade from view.

TX5C made 71,794 QSO's in 156 hours (6.5 days) of operating.

This is the list of EI's that made it through to this 'rare one'.

1	EI7BA	6
2	EI2CN	5
3	EI9FBB	3
4	EI4CF	3
5	EI7JN	3
6	EI6AK	2
7	EI9JF	2
8	EI5DR	1
9	EI5GM	1
10	EI6S	1
11	EI3FB	1
12	EI9HX	1
13	EI9O	1
14	EI3IO	1
15	EI2ID	1

N7CQQ (QSL manager) reports that cards for this operation will be dispatched over the coming weeks so hold on a tad longer.

## 4W6R – East Timor.

The Iberian team heading to East Timor has announced they will be in the country from June 10th to 24th. They will be operating as 4W6R. Their licence has already been obtained so it looks fairly positive at the moment that this one actually will materialize from this much corrupt country.

Operators ;EA5BWR, EA1QF, EA4DB, EA3CUU, EA4KA & CT1ERC will be running 2 stations simultaneously both from different locations. At time of departure, they will be leaving one fully equipped station at the local university aiding any future operations from here. Their web page can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/4e2rvz>.

The following is a report from URE ; The Union de Radioaficionados Españoles, URE, (The Spanish Amateur Radio League) is proud to announce a project in East Timor to take place in June 2008. URE's Radiosolidarity Department will organize an Amateur Radio DXpedition, combined with activities to promote Amateur Radio including the donation and setting up of a complete amateur radio station at the University of Dili. It is hoped that by operating alongside students and teachers of the Electrical Engineering and other departments it will be possible to sow the seeds of future amateur radio activity of a permanent nature in East Timor.

## JD1 – Ogasawara

Anyone still needing Ogasawara should definitely nab one of these 2 planned forthcoming operations.

A team from Japan is heading to the Ogasawara Islands next month.

They are JA1EJK/JD1, JA1JQY/JD1, JA1NND/JD1, JA1XEQ/JD1, JA1KJW/JD1, JA1EBA/JD1, JJ1JGI/JD1, JI1FPO/JD1, JR1LYL/JD1 and 7N4AGB/JD1.

They will be operating from Chichi Island between June 12th and 18th and then from Haha Island from June 19th to 22nd. Activity is expected on 1.8 to 50 MHz on CW and SSB. QSL via their home call either direct or via the bureau.

OPDX reports JD1BLX and JD1BLY

will be on from Ogasawara, aka "Chichijima," IOTA AS-031, August 10-16. Operators JI5USJ, Toru, and JI5RPT, Makoto, will be on 160-6m, satellite, CW, SSB, and digital. QSL to their home calls. <http://www.ji5rpt.com/jd1/>.

## VK9X – Christmas Island

VK9X, Christmas Island, will be on the air July 8<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>. CT1BWW, EA3GHZ, EA5EOR and EC5BME will have the callsigns; VK9XWW, VK9XHZ, VK9XOR and VK9XME respectfully. This Iberian team have their excellent web-page up and running at - [www.dxciting.com/vk9x](http://www.dxciting.com/vk9x) and is well worth a visit. They will have three stations on the air and will be QRV on all bands 160m to 6m. This operation is to be QSLed via EA4URE.

## Tonga, Samoa, American Samoa.

DL2AH, Ulli, is heading back to the Pacific Ocean later this year.

His first stop will be Samoa in September. Exact dates have yet to be announced. Afterwards he's going to Manua Island (OC-077), American Samoa where he will be QRV as KH8/DL2AH from October 7th to 27th. His last stop will be from Tonga from October 29th to November 9th.

He has not received his call as of yet. Activity will be on 7 to 28 MHz mostly on SSB with some RTTY. He'll have a Windom antenna. QSL via DL2AH where a full colour QSL is guaranteed. More on this one closer to the time.

## TO4G – Glorioso Island.

Organizers have put out what they say is the one and only official press release for the Glorioso 2008 operation. The operation has been postponed for some weeks. The High Commandant for French Forces in the Indian Ocean south zone announced that important infrastructure work must be done on the island. Over a 2-1/2 month period starting in June anti-cyclonic shelters will be built to protect military work crews in the future. Included will be important meteorological gear. The ham expedition organizers, together with the Commandant, thought a better time to go ashore would be after

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that work is done. The operation is now on the calendar for the end of September or beginning of October. Organizers say the delay will give them time to perfect the preparations. The exact dates will depend on variables of the military transportation. They say the authorizations have definitely not been cancelled and they thank the military authorities and financial contributors.

The entire press release can be found at <http://www.glorieuses2008.free.fr/index-e.htm>. And here is the Glorioso Island web site URL, <http://glorieuses2008.free.fr/>. Keep your fingers crossed that this one materializes.

### **CY0 – Sable Island.**

The following should be of interest to any 6 meter fans and I only give it a mention here as this Canadian team will also be operating 20 & 40m on a secondary basis, focusing primarily on 6 metres.

As far as I'm aware, the last operation from Sable Island was in August 2005 so this one should be of interest to many. This extract is taken directly from the pages of the 'Daily DX'.

CY0X is the first 6-meter focused DXpedition to CY0 Sable Island since the June 1996 CY0AA operation by Mike, VE9AA and company.

The DXpedition dates (June 25th through July 7th 2008) were chosen to maximize the possibility of transatlantic multihop sporadic-E propagation to Europe, Africa, and the Mideast. We will be on six meters 24 hours a day from the main station in grid FN93 an 8 element custom M2 yagi (40 foot boom courtesy of Robby, VY2SS) and Dick's 800 watt linear amplifier. Operation will be on both CW and SSB and also look for us on meteor scatter. We will be using either the new Elecraft K3 or a Yaesu FT-650 for the main 6 meter transceiver plus a 0.3db NF pHEMT low noise 6m preamp.

We will be transmitting on 50.117 MHz. Please do NOT send your grid square as it consumes valuable time during an opening. We will also try and activate rare grid GN03 if there is a solid opening, using a portable station with a 5 element M2 6M5X Yagi and the call CY0RA.

We plan on also being on HF on 20 meters and 40 meters, CW and SSB – but the HF operation will always take lower priority over the 6 meter operation. HF antennas will be elevated monoband ground-plane verticals for each band. The IOTA island designator is NA-063. The special call sign CY0X commemorates the 225th anniversary of the 1783

Loyalist landing in Nova Scotia <http://www.loyalistlanding2008.org>

### **TO5 – St. Bartlelemy.**

Another 6m one that should attract many is one from DXCC's newest entity, St. Barthelemy.

W0SD, Ed, and W7XU, Arliss, are planning a six meter DXpedition to St. Barthelemy, FJ, for June 28-July 6. They have applied for a TO5 callsign and plan to operate on 50.103 CW and SSB, listening up. They will have high power and a long boom Yagi. They plan to operate the daylight hours and into the evening. When they are not working people they will be in beacon mode to discover openings. They have chosen this time of year to coincide with the highest probability of Sporadic E openings to North and South America, Europe, and Africa.

The QTH will be on a rocky point 70 meters above the ocean, on the northeast corner of the island, with a clear shot to the west, northwest, north, northeast and east. They request that you do not give your grid square during your QSO with them, to keep the QSOs fast. They want to maximize the number of QSOs during the brief openings. They will be in grid square FK87nv for those looking for new grid squares. They say they may also operate some HF RTTY and CW during the night-time, 40 and 30M, when six meter sporadic E is over for the day.

Ed says that experience since the early 1990s with a similar station shows that sporadic E openings on 6 during this time of year typically make it possible to make around 1,000 QSOs from this part of the Caribbean. They ask that you check their on-line log, [www.w0sd.com/stbart/bart.htm](http://www.w0sd.com/stbart/bart.htm), available starting May 15, uploaded nightly, and if you're already in the 6m log don't keep calling, so others will have more of a chance for a QSO. They note that paths beyond 9000km are quite rare. And they say past experience shows they will be working many stations who have 100 watts or less, so even modestly equipped 6m stations should have a good chance. QSL via W7XU.

### **IOTA**

OK, the much awaited summertime and continuous long days of un-interrupted sunshine will hopefully be on us before long. This always sees a major development in IOTA activations as those who like to travel, often bring along radio equipment whenever possible, often operating from the more unusual 'seasonal' IOTAs.

Here are a few of the early reported ones to look out for.

The GB0TI, Grantham Radio Club, will be going on their annual DXpedition to a "scarce" IOTA Island again this year. This year they go to the Summer Isles, also known as Tanera Mor, EU-092, which is northwest of Ullapool and west of Achilitbuie. The operators will be G0RCI, M0USY, G7DEH, G6SSN, G4VUA, G3USR and M0JNC. MMMonVHF reports that having already activated these islands many years ago on VHF they will concentrate on the HF bands this time, plus six meters where they will have 100 watts to a three-element beam.

F5KAQ/p will be a seven-operator expedition to Brehat Island, EU-074, September 1-8. They will be all bands and modes. QSL via F5RJM, direct or bureau. The operators will be F8PDR, F5NKX, F5RJM, F9ZG, F5HVI, F6CMC and F6ACH.

DL4AO/p, Heinz, will be on Ruegen Island, EU-057 and also OZ/DL4AO from Bornholm Island, EU-030, between June 10 and 26. Heinz will operate in his early morning and late afternoon hours, mostly on 20M.

On Bornholm he will also be on six meter CW and SSB. All his QSOs will be QSLed automatically via the bureau.

F4ELJ/p, Didier, will be on Groix Island, EU-048, July 19-26. QSL to his home call.

VO2/NF6J, operator Juergen, DL7RV, will be on from Battle Island, Newfoundland, Canada, NA-044, June 25-30. QSL via DL7RV.

Members of the F5KDK radio club will be operating from Frioul Archipelago (EU-095) as TM5F from August 15 to 18. Activity will be on SSB, CW, PSK and RTTY.

Their Website is <http://tm5f.free.fr>.

G3USR, Gordon, plans to be QRV from the Isle of Yell (EU-012), Shetlands, Scotland as GM3USR/p from June 4th to 8th. He'll be on 7 to 50 MHz on SSB only running 100 watts. QSL via his home call.

OZ/DL6MHW, Michael, will be on Bornholm Island, EU-030, July 18<sup>th</sup>-August 4<sup>th</sup>, including the IOTA contest July 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. Look for Michael on 80-10m. QSL to his home call direct or buro.

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### Radio Licensing News.

New M6 callsigns are being made available in the U.K. One may observe that it didn't take long to wipe out the M3AAA to M3ZZZ series for the new Foundation licensees. The U.K.'s Ofcom began issuing M6 callsigns Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, although a few M3 callsigns are still available.

Italians operators now have an extended 40M spectrum. 7100-7200 was made available to Italian hams on May 13<sup>th</sup> on a secondary basis until May 29, 2009, and on a primary basis after that date. Total radiated power should not to exceed 24 dbW. It has been rumoured that 7195 has already been 'reserved' for one particular Italian station. Time will tell !!!

Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) announced the expansion of the Japanese Amateur Radio band plan for 80/75 meters. The change is effective starting April 28, 2008. JA ops can transmit on the following frequencies:

3500-3520 CW only  
3520-3525 Digital Mode and CW  
3525-3575 Phone and CW  
3599-3612 CW and Phone (NEW)  
3680-3687 CW and Phone (NEW)  
3702-3716 CW and Phone (NEW)  
3745-3770 CW and Phone (3745-3747,3754-3770 NEW)  
3791-3805 CW and Phone

You can see the latest Japanese Band plans at  
[http://www.jarl.or.jp/english/6\\_Band\\_Plan/JAbandplan.pdf](http://www.jarl.or.jp/english/6_Band_Plan/JAbandplan.pdf).

### Special Event Stations.

To celebrate World Environment Day (WED), on June 5<sup>th</sup>, special event station 4U1WED during the month of June. This station will be located at the Vienna International Amateur Radio Club (4U1VIC) Vienna, Austria. This will count for Austria and will not count for ITU Geneva or United Nations Headquarters for DXCC purposes. QSL via 4U1VIC.

Starting May 18<sup>th</sup> the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games Special Event Amateur Radio Stations will begin activity. Five special calls, representing the five rings of the Olympic flag, will be QRV. The calls will be BT1OB, BT1OJ, BT1OH, BT1OY and BT1ON. The last letter of the callsign corresponds to the colour of each of the rings of the Olympic flag-Beibei (Blue), Jingjing (Black), Huanhuan (Red), Yingying (Yellow) and Nini (Green). BA4EG will be the QSL man-

ager for all stations. QSLs can be sent either direct or via the bureau and will begin to be answered in October. There will be a Website set up at [www.bj2008ses.com.cn](http://www.bj2008ses.com.cn) which should be up and running by May 16<sup>th</sup>. The website will include an on-line log search, and QSL card receive and sent status, along with other information. There will also be award criteria posted soon. Look for these five Olympic special event stations to be QRV through September 17<sup>th</sup>. U.K. Scouts plan to be on from the special Scout Station from Jamboree 2008 at the Punchestown race course in Ireland, August 2-10, using the callsign EI100S. The RSGB notes the primary calling frequencies for the Jamboree on the Air, JOTA, are 3590, 3650, 7090, 14190, 21190, 28590, 14290, 18140, 21360, 24960 and 28390.

Hams in Greece and Turkey plan an unusual special event. They will be on mountaintops used 3,200 years ago to send news from Troy, in northwestern Turkey, into Greece - news of the ancient battle of Troy.

The system was visual, of course; the modern one will use 2M radio. SX8FRA will be on Lemnos Island; SX2FRB/A will be on Mount Athos; SX8FRC will be on Kandili Evia; SX1FRD will be on Mesapio; SX1FRE will be on Kitheronas; SX1FRF will be on Gerania; SX3FRG will be on Arachneon, Peloponisos; and SX3FRH will be in Mikines.

These mountaintops are mentioned in Aeschylus' "Agamemnon" as having brought the message to Mikines City that Troy had fallen. All this will happen July 13. The stations will also be on HF to work the world, July 11-14, (exact dates to be confirmed). The ancient Greek message system used fire from torches on the mountaintops, called "fryktories" from the Greek word "fryktos," torch. Hams on other mountains in Greece and other countries are expected to join in. QSL via the bureau.

Note, if a license for Mount Athos cannot be obtained, the alternative is a station on Hortiatis Mountain, Salonica.

To celebrate the Football European Championship 2008, the Austrian Radio League (OVSV) and the Union of Swiss Short Wave Amateurs (USKA), are inviting all radio amateurs and SWLs world wide to participate and obtain this limited time Award.

As of 26.04.2008 until the 30.06.2008, special stations (Sonderstationen) in Aus-

tria with a special call sign OE2008 AAA to OE2008ZZZ and special stations in Switzerland HB2008 AA to HB2008 ZZ will be QRV on all bands.

Depending on the Award Class, (Bronze, Silver, Gold) a predetermined number of contacts with these special stations (Sonderstationen) must be made.

Only one contact per band with the same station will be accepted.

All Amateur Radio Bands are permissible.

All transmitting modes, SSB, CW, DIGITAL, MIXED and QRP (max 10 Watt) are permitted with the exception of Packet Radio and Echo Link. The Award has 3 classes, the requirements are as follows:

**Bronze** 10 Special Stations  
(5x OE and 5x HB)

**Silver** 14 Special Stations  
(7x OE and 7x HB)

**Gold** 20 Special Stations  
(10 x OE and 10 x HB)

The application for the Award must be submitted before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.

LA9JKA, Svein, began activity on Jan Mayen (EU-022) as JX9JKA in early April, shortly after his late March arrival. He is on a work assignment on the Artic volcanic island until early October.

Unfortunately there is a small setback to his operation from this semi-rare one as LA4XGA, Geir, reports that Svein can not operate at this time because of RFI into the fire alarm system. Let's all hope Svein can quickly solve this problem.

Until then we won't be hearing JX9JKA on the air. Congratulations to ALL EI's that have already worked this semi-rare one.

It's been a while since the last reports, thanks to all who offered words of encouragement regarding the end of year HF league table and of course, to those who participated. We will see this table again at the end of the year, so all are encouraged to build up your totals and try to be as active as possible covering all HF bands.

Concentrating on the 'low bands' over the past period, my own log extract includes : LX0RL, M6T, LY2IJ, ES90C, OT5A, GD0DOL, CN3A, OZ1DD & LN9Z all on **160M**.

**80M** logged ; CP4BT, TK7C, V31MD, FM1FV, PZ5RA, YK9G, YI1RAZ, ER4LX, 4O3A, 9H1GL, TO6T, W5ZL/VP2V, 9K2HN, HI3T, P40A, V48M, TO5RZ, VP2MAH, 5D5A, DU5/ZL4PO, OX3KQ, HP3AK, XE1L, 9X0R, 5T5DC,

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A45XR, 9M6XRO, 6Y1LZ, A61Q, OD5LN, J8/DJ7ZG, HC8A & CO6LC. **40M** netted ; VO1TX, TK7C, N1YC/VK9X, R1FJT, JX9JKA, A73A, VP5/W5CW, PJ5NA, 8P1A, VR2C, JH4UYB, WP2Z, D4C, ZC4LI, VP2EFB, 3A/G3SXW, HH4/K4QD, 4S7DXG, P49V, 9X0R, 9M2TO, 5T5DC, XU7ACY, 7Z1SJ, S01MZ, ZS4TX, EY7AF, 4U1ITU, TR8CA, TX5C, 7X4AN, 5N8NDP, YV5ZV, 3A2MG, A92GR, KH7XS, 8R1PW, BL7IC & 4U1UN. Onto **30M** worked ; YK9G, 3A/DL3OCH, FJ/DJ2VO, R1FJT, 5T5DC, 6W/RW3TN, TX5C, SY8JZ, YO22NATO, E76AQ & LZ08KM. **20M** being the highest band worked over the past period logged ; TL8CG, TK7C, 9X0R, 3B8GL, JW8DW & UA2FX. All these QSOs were made with 400W and wire antennas.

**Declan, EI9FVB** again has been active over the past period. Using a IC 756 Pro 2, mostly 300W into a MQ24SR beam antenna he logged the following: **10M** QSOs ; HB2008FS, DL1LKR & UX0KN.

**15M** logged ; ZS1OIN, 5T5DC, C56YK, VP6DX, TT8PK & 9H5DH while on **20M** he netted ; RP9JGS, LY1R, OZ1ADL, SI9AM, YP9W, UY7C, E73TW, 9X0R, SV3AQR, NX7TT, 5T5DC, 4U1VIC, ST2EB, 4O3A, VY2ZM, PY2DN, FJ/SP6IXF & C91R. Using a **40M** dipole he logged ; TM0G, IR3GM, IR9GI, TK7C, JX9JKA, OT7G, OX3KQ, 5T5DC, OL30SPACE, EA9IE, 7X4AN, OO5G, ES1QD & CU2DX. Using an **80M** dipole he netted ; PA143ITU, SV9COL, GB0BW, LY600W, SI9AM, RK6WWQ, 5T5DC, EW4MM, C31CT, UA2FEK, YN2YV, CT3MD, 5N8NDP & J79SJ.

**Charlie, GI4FUE** has been giving his new station a good airing recently. Using a Flex 5000, 400W into a 3 element SteppIR he logged the following **10M** QSOs ; EA4EUI, CT2IVH, OK1AIT & EG7CDG.

**20M** netted ; VU2NKS, XW1B, HL5BMX, VR10XMT, R90LPU, KF4NX, VE9DSO, HP1CPE, TI4DJ, TG9AHM, CX5TR, OA4DJW, KP4MS, W9IMS, ZP8AE, LU9DTC, 4L1QX, YV6BFE, XE2YBG, HC2AQ, 9Z4CT, CU2JT, V51AS, IM0MBP, 3B8CF, C31LJ, HK4CZE, V85SS, CE3/VE7SV, YK9G, 6V7I & ET3JA.

Using a vertical antenna for the following bands he worked on **30M** ; MU0FAL, 4U1UN, CO8LY, TF3DC, PJ2MI, FM5AA, TK7C, YK9G, 5T5DC,

LY90CM & OL1908D. **40M** netted ; TK7C, TF4M, EA9EU, CT3/DL3KWR, MU/DL4JU, HG25STT, 4O3A, 9A70LPC & UX7UA while **80M** logged ; TK7C, YK9G, SN7Q, SY8JZ, 5T5DC & OL30SPACE.

**Eoin, EI9O**, submitted his log for the past period. Using a Kenwood TS-440SAT and an 80m dipole worked these following multi-band contacts :

On **15m** 5T5DC, D44AC, PY1KN, EI4IB, LT1F, 5D5A, ZX5J, DK7AN, S53BV, EA1ABT

On **17m** CX5BW, V51AS, TX5C, WA4VY, A71CT, 5L2RL, 9X0R, SV2JAO, LZ2ZF, 4Z4DX, 9H5DA, PT7CB, ST2EB, ZD7X, CT2JUT EA8EQ, F5AD, ON7USB, SM5WYH, OR4U, OH3ET, DG0KQ, K1IED, EA3DTD, M0PSW, SP5XSL, PA5DJD, UR0VX HB2008VC, 9A0CI, EI9FN, TK7C

On **20m** E73AD, JO7CVU, IK0PHY, 5X4X, OK1LV, HB2008VC, EI7JN, CT3FT, YT3AA, HG1848I, SV9CVY, PD1DTH, FM1HM, WB1CPJ MU0GSY, CO6LC

**Nicky, EI9JF**, has been active recently covering all bands from 10m to 160m. Using 400w into a 4 element SteppIR worked these following **10m** contacts : ZD7X, DL5YUM, SP2AYC, RA2FV, LA9TY, ER1OO, UY3LA, PE0TS, IA1ARA, 5U5U, UN5P, E77RR, LY600W, OK1AHX, OJ0B, SK7OA, 6Y1V, PJ2LF, WP4SK, MD0CCE, TF3ARI & UA2FCB.

On **12m** he logged : 5T5DC, OZ3ABU, RA2FT, SP3MEY, DG0OBU, OZ1KJG, OJ0J & MW0CRI while on **15m** netted : 9X0R, V85TT, YK9G, PZ5RA & FM5AA.

**17m** worked : EY8AW, AP2TN, 4S7DXG, 9X0R, V85SS, VP2EFB, EA9EU, R1FJT, YK9G, EP4HR, XE83IARU, P43E, 4K9W, 4L6QC, HK7AAG, JR6GIM & 6Y1AY.

**20m** logged : J6/W0SA, KH7XS, ZP6CW, GP0STH, CP6AA, 6Y1LZ, 9X0R, 9Y4D, 5T5DC, ZP5AZL, 6Y1V, 8R1K, V25V, VQ59W, 9V1YC, OX3XR, V31MR, HP3FPJ, VP2E, 8P6BX, 3Y0E, ZF1DX, SU9NC, 9M6XRO, VK3MO, WH0DX, TT8FC, AL7GA, H44MD, PZ1AP, A71AN & FM/F2VX.

Using 2 elements on **30m** netted : CO2NB, VQ9JC, TX5C, A45XR, PR7FB, 3A2LS, 9M2TO, VU2AI, JH3GCN, 4U1UN, 9K2HN, 5H3G, H7/IV3IUH, HI9/DL2RVL, 4Z5TA & SU1SK while also using 2 elements for **40m** worked : PR7AP, 5J0E, V4/G4FAL,

R1AND, TY5ZR, VK7AC, 9X0R, A92C, JX9JKA, XU7KOH, YN4SU, TI8II, 4S7DXG, PE7T/VK9X, YK9G, ZB2FK, J8/DJ7ZG, TX5C, PJ5NA, TF3YH & 4K8M.

Using a dipole antenna for the next 2 bands he netted on **80m** : OH0R, V25WY, 5T5DC, OX3KQ & 9H9JR. These 3 **160m** contacts were logged; VK3AMZ, VK3ZL & TK/DJ5MX.

From looking at all these above contacts, one can see that a great deal of DX is being worked across all HF bands. Usually at this time of year, the lower bands become much more difficult due to an increased noise level and static and of course the longer hours of daylight have a major effect.

On the positive side of things though, we can be hopeful that for the next few years, conditions on the higher bands should improve quite noticeably where cycle 24 is expected peak at about 2012.

Also as the sporadic season is upon us, 10m is definitely worth a CQ call in the afternoons and in fact, both 10 & 12m should provide frequent openings well into the evening time. For the next few months though, it can be assured that 17 & 20 meters will be the main long haul DX bands where global communication should be possible even with moderately equipped stations.

As usual, my sincere thanks to Bernie W3UR, the Daily DX, and to all for submitting their logs.

Best DX till next issue.

De Dave EI9FBB

### New Donegal Repeaters

The Carndonagh Amateur Radio Club has set up 2 New Repeaters in Donegal close to Malin Head.

ComReg has now licensed the 2 new Repeaters in Carndonagh Inishowen IO65JG.

The 2 meter repeater EI2IPG is working on 145.7125 / 145.1125 MHz input with 67hz CTCSS or 1750hz tone burst for access. Sysop Peter EI4JR

The 10 meter repeater EI0IPG is on 29.680 / 29.580 MHz input with 67hz CTCSS for access. Sysop Steve EI2GYB.

The 10 meter repeater is the only one in Ireland at this time.

Both repeaters are connected via the EchoLink system you will normally find them both logged into the \*IRELAND\* Conference Server node number 2606.

For more information on the repeaters check out the web site [www.echoireland.com](http://www.echoireland.com)

# **Irish Radio Transmitters Society**

## **76th Annual General Meeting**

### **Salthill, Galway**

#### **Hosted by**

## **Galway Radio Experimenters Club**

In recent years, it has become more difficult to find volunteers clubs to host the IRTS Dinner and AGMs.

The 75th Jubilee AGM weekend was organised in Cork by the IRTS committee for the first time in living memory.

Things were not looking too good for the 2008 event after the jubilee weekend in Cork and tentative arrangements were being put in place for another committee organised event. Just a few years ago, there were always volunteer clubs and one could look ahead for at least two years. On many occasions, decisions had to be made between clubs.

In mid-October last, the Galway Radio Experimenters Club were heavily involved with the 100th anniversary celebrations of Marconi's first commercial radio communication with a station in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

They were issued with the special event callsign EI100MFT, MFT being the last callsign used on the original Marconi station. They were honoured with the presence of Princess Electra Marconi and greeting were exchanged between President Mary McAleese and the Honourable Mayann E Francis, Governor of Nova Scotia.

You may well be thinking; what has all this to do with the IRTS AGM?! Well, our President Finbarr EI1CS was also at Clifden and not a man to lose an opportunity, he floated the idea that the Galway club might host the AGM.

Chairman of GREC, Tom EI3ER did not refuse immediately and with a week, the Galway boys decided to drive on with the project.

The GREC committee got stuck in and Tom EI3ER and Damian EI2HG went looking for a suitable hotel. The first choice did not work out and eventually a deal was struck with the Salthill Hotel on the promenade in Salthill and the weekend of 26th and 27th April was agreed on.

Dinner tickets were printed, traders contacted and after a slow start, applications for dinner tickets picked up.

Attendance at the dinner is the big problem for anyone organising an AGM weekend and by our nature, we all leave it until very late to confirm attendance. This does nothing for the blood pressure of those charged with selling the tickets!

Ger EI4GXB was appointed by the IRTS committee to liaise with the Galway Club and everybody was kept informed of progress on a regular basis.

Saturday April 26th finally arrived and members converged on Salthill from all points of the compass.

Declan EI9HQ/M set off from Dublin on Saturday morning with the intention of activating Worked All Ireland squares on HF but conditions were very poor and he reached the hotel a disappointed man. WAI activity has waned in recent years, mainly due to poor conditions on 40 and 80 metres. There have never been so many experimenters rigged for HF mobile as proved by the fine display of aerials in the car park.

Long time AGM supporters Bernie and XYL Mary made the long trip from the Beara Peninsula and were joined as usual by John EI3BF from North Cork.

A strong Dublin contingent were last to get to bed in the early hours...

Guests at the dinner were the Mayor of Galway Councillor Tom Costelloe and John Breen EI??? representing Eamon Ryan, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

Both guests made after dinner speeches which were followed by video presentations on the Marconi event in Clifden, the CQIR contest and the first IRTS stand ever at Friedrichshafen in 2007.

A big disappointment to everybody involved was the absence, for the first time in living memory, of a representative of the Communications Regulator at an IRTS annual dinner.

At this point we are still not clear why this happened. We were only notified two days before the event that our invitation was not being availed of.

### **Rally**

Traders were out bright and early on Sunday morning to set up for the rally. Slight vehicle access problems were encountered due to a major building job in progress providing a large extension to the hotel.

The hall was ideal for the rally with plenty of room for traders and punters.

The following were the stands:

Long Communications from Donegal,  
South East Communications from Waterford,  
JBT Trading from Limavady,  
Wescom from Galway,  
Sean Martin from Roscommon,  
MI3NIE Wire Antennas & Accessories  
Radio Officers Association,  
Irish Radio Transmitters Society,  
Bring & Buy

### **Annual General Meeting**

Attendances at IRTS general meetings have been very consistent over the years and on a percentage of members basis, compare very favourably with other IARU national societies.

This year was no exception and in excess of fifty members signed the attendance sheet.

Recent AGMs have tended to be quiet affairs with little discussion or comment from the floor.

This year was different and two items in particular generated lots of comment.

One was the theory examination and it was announced at the AGM that the society have agreed another three year contract with ComReg to run these examinations.

One of the down sides to this is that the society as the body running and correcting the exams is precluded from running classes for the exams.

There has been a consistent call for the question pool to be published but ComReg will not entertain this. This was debated at the meeting and the main participants in the discussion were members actively involved in teaching students to sit the exams.

The consensus of the meeting was that like minded tutors get together to take the matter further.

The other big issue arising from the committee report was the failure of ComReg to deliver on longstanding promises.

A now famous meeting with ComReg was held on May 27th 2007 where many issues were discussed and agreed.

It took many months for ComReg to even agree the minutes of that meeting.

We have the long standing problem with repeater callsigns. This was really a simple matter to resolve and when ComReg asked repeater groups to submit details of their installations and proposed new callsigns, the failure of a few led to statutory notices being issued to all, even those who complied with the original request.

ComReg representatives are well known for their tendency to deal with issues by telephone call rather than the written word. A few phone calls would have resolved the problem and if those who refused to comply persisted with their attitude a simple request to cease operations would have solved the problem. As we write, this issue seems to be still unresolved.



### Home Construction Trophy Winners

Top picture: IRTS President Finbarr EI1CS presenting the Kevin Freeny Trophy to Pierce O'Brien, EI4CI

Bottom picture: IRTS President Finbarr EI1CS presenting the Folan Shield to Aengus Cullinan, EI4ABB



Dave EI4BZ being presented with his certificate on being appointed an honorary vice-president of the society in recognition of his long service

### Theory Examination July 9th 2008

Applications are coming in steadily to sit the next theory examination for the experimenter licence which will be held on Wednesday 9th July at 2 p.m. in the ComReg Offices in Dublin.

Places for the examination, which are limited, will be allocated on a first come first served basis and will only be reserved on receipt of the appropriate fee.

The fee is 50 Euro or 25 Euro for full-time registered students, repeat candidates and those who are retired, unemployed or have a disability and should be sent to Seán Nolan EI7CD at QTHR.

Cheques and Money Orders should be made payable to the IRTS. When forwarding the exam fee intending candidates should include their e-mail and postal addresses as well as a contact telephone number.

The closing date for applications to sit the examination is 25th June. Sean EI7CDs address can be found in the IRTS call book or in the call book section of the IRTS website at [www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie) Seán's e-mail address for further enquiries is [ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie](mailto:ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie)

Useful information for intending candidates, including a sample examination paper, can be found in the Downloads and Radio Theory Links sections of the IRTS website at [www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie)

We wish all intending candidates the best of luck in the examination.

### Do You Speak Russian?

A team in the Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies (Trinity College Dublin) are researching cultural and linguistic diversity in the Republic of Ireland, drawing on the experience of people in Ireland who speak and understand Russian. This is being funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The first stage of the "Our Languages" project is a sociolinguistic survey which is accessible on line at <https://www.tcd.ie/Russian/OurLanguages/survey.php>.

The survey asks:

\* Which languages do you know?

- When, where and with whom do you use them?
- How do you feel about each of your languages?

Participants may become further involved if they wish by being part of a focus group or giving an in-depth interview.

There is also a paper version of the survey which can be obtained from Sarah Smyth, principal investigator (Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies, TCD, [ssmyth@tcd.ie](mailto:ssmyth@tcd.ie)).

We would be very appreciative if you could complete the survey (if you speak Russian) and/or publicise this project as widely as possible (among friends who speak Russian). All participants have a crucial role to play in ensuring the success of this project.



# Committee Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society Salhill Hotel, Galway. 27th April 2008

## 75th Jubilee

### EI75IRTS

During the year under review, IRTS celebrated its 75th jubilee. The society was issued with the special call EI75IRTS for the year and it was first activated by the President Finbarr EI1CS in the 80m counties contest on New Years Day. The callsign was available to members during the year and quite a few put it on the air. Denis EI6HB is QSL manager for EI75IRTS.

### AFRI75

The next big event was the AFRI75 - IRTS 75th Jubilee DXpedition to Swaziland from 16th to 25th March 2007.

Seven EI/GI operators led by Paul Martin EI2CA made the trip. All bands were activated on CW, SSB and PSK31 and 97 QSO's were made on 2m EME including one with EI4DQ. The group wound up its operation by taking part in the CQ WPX SSB contest on 24th and 25th March, using the call sign 3DA0EI.

The DXpedition team linked in with the Swaziland Thirst For Life Scout Project and in particular the Kip Kip Chicken Project and surplus funds from the QSLs and other donations were used to purchase chickens for the project.

### Jubilee Dinner

The 75th Jubilee dinner was held in at the Vienna Woods Hotel in Cork and the society welcomed guests from IARU and sister societies to the event.

### CQ-IR Contest

An international contest, CQ-IR, was organised and held on the last weekend in September when overseas Irish were invited to be Irish for the weekend.

Unfortunately band conditions were appalling but everyone taking part enjoyed the event.

CQIR was a once-off event with a difference - overseas entrants with 75 or more QSOs had the opportunity to win a trip to Ireland and the EI participants had the chance to win a trip to New York.

There were 53 entries in the overseas draw, representing 20 countries - all the way from GW to ZL - and the winner was Ian "Wilf" Prater M0WLF of Bristol, England. He had over 300 QSO's and qualified for 4 entries. He will enjoy a week in Kinnitty Castle, County Offaly.

EI/GI entrants had a separate draw for a trip to New York City for two people, to include a visit to the ARRL HQ in Newington, Connecticut. The winner was Declan Horan EI9FVB of Ballincollig, County Cork. Declan had 175 QSO's and 2 entries in the draw.

CQIR was a 24-hour, single-operator HF CW/SSB contest on the weekend of 29th/30th September 2007.

CQIR was a celebration of both the IRTS Jubilee and the "Irish" amateur-radio community worldwide. It's where the Irish, at home and abroad, worked the World - and where those of Irish descent identified themselves by including their ances-

tral county in the exchange, for example: County Limerick, County Antrim etc.

The CQ-IR contest winners were:

	SSB	Mixed	CW
EI/GI:	EJ9HQ.	EI/W5GN.	EI6IZ
Overseas:	M0WLF.	LZ1BJ	OK1TN

Our thanks to all who made the contest such a success and especially to Paul EI5DI and Paul EI2CA who organised and adjudicated.

### Jubilee WEIC

To mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year a special Jubilee WEIC was introduced. Only contacts made between 1 January 2007 and 1 January 2008 inclusive are valid for the award.

Again a certified log extract is all that is required.

Thirteen Jubilee WEIC awards have been issued so far.

### Friedrichshafen

For the first time ever, the Society mounted a stand at the Friedrichshafen Hamfest in June. The event was a great success and our thanks to all who travelled at their own expense to man the stand.

## Committee Meetings

Eight Committee Meetings were held during the year. Four meetings were held in the Montague Hotel, Portlaoise before it closed for business and the other four were held at the Comfort Inn at the Portlaoise roundabout.

## Membership

Membership of the Society rose slightly during 2007, with 965 members by the year end, an increase of 15 over the year. It was good to see a reversal of the downward trend in numbers that has been noted in recent years. During 2007, we put a lot of effort into retaining existing members and recruiting new members, and in this respect the efforts by some of the newly-appointed Regional Managers have helped. We should particularly mention that the team manning the IRTS stand at rallies has been very effective at getting renewals and recruiting new members.

## ComReg

Regular contact is maintained with ComReg by the Society. Meetings are held as necessary to discuss matters concerning amateur radio. Telephone, e-mail and written contacts are used to resolve issues that may arise from time to time.

The following are the main issues which arose with ComReg during the year.

### Incursions on 28 MHz

Complaints were received during the year from the Intruder Watch Coordinator of the German National Society DARC about the use of two frequencies in the 28 MHz band for the

*(Continued on page 13)*



(Continued from page 12)

broadcasting of Church services. As a result of some monitoring by members of the Society two Churches in the Dublin area were identified as using the frequencies concerned.

This information was passed on to ComReg and these transmissions now seem to have ceased.

### Meeting of July 2007

Representatives of the society met with representatives of ComReg on July 10th to discuss a range of issues mentioned in last year's Committee Report.

At the time of the meeting there were ongoing discussions between IRTS and the Military authorities on the allocation of channels in the region of 5 MHz.

On the conclusion of the discussions with the Military authorities an agreed report of the July meeting was finalised with ComReg in early November 2007.

The following matters were agreed and ComReg has given an assurance that they will be in place prior to this AGM

- Four 3kHz channels centered on 5280, 5290, 5400 and 5405 kHz to be allocated to experimenters for an initial one year period on a secondary, non interference basis. The power level to be 200 watts to an antenna with 0 dBd gain. The modes permitted will be CW, USB and digital modes.  
Individual application will be required.
- Making 70 MHz available generally without the need for a specific application in each case.
- Licensing of a 5 MHz beacon.
- Finalisation of a revised call sign system for repeaters and beacons which was initiated by ComReg. This will include a new call sign for the 70 MHz beacon which has been repaired and will go back on site when the call sign is received and the beacon is re-programmed.

It was also agreed at the meeting that an application could be submitted for the use of increased power by experimenter stations. Data is being collected at present for a submission on this point.

With regard to call signs it was clarified that

- A call sign may be held without payment of fee where licensees notify ComReg of their intention to be away for some period of time but would intend to re-activate the licence in the future.
- Call signs of silent keys will not be re-issued without the permission of the next of kin.
- Lapsed call signs will only be re-issued where there are good reasons for the holder not paying the annual licence fee. The Society intends to pursue this matter further with Comreg.

Finally, it was established during the meeting that the lifetime licence is awaiting regulatory changes in relation to licensing generally.

### 70 MHz Initiative

Arising from an initiative by IRTS based on a technical paper drafted by Dave Court EI3IO, ComReg submitted a proposal inviting the CEPT Working Group on Frequency Management (WGFM) to consider a secondary allocation to the amateur service in the band 70.0 to 70.5 MHz.

This was in the context of the post WRC'07 revision of the European Common Frequency Allocation Table (ECA).

The primary purpose for doing this was to secure regulatory recognition for the de facto allocations at 70 MHz which seems to be a requirement before some countries will release the band to the amateur service.

While the proposal was not carried there was sufficient support to allow Ireland to propose a suitable note re 70 MHz allocations in the ECA. It is understood that ComReg will be submitting an appropriate note shortly.

### Tampere Convention

Arising from the Tampere Convention, ComReg, by way of newspaper notices in November 2007, requested expressions of interest from governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental resources which could be made available to facilitate the use of telecommunications for disaster mitigation and relief, including the provision of telecommunications assistance.

The IRTS, in consultation with AREN, responded to this and both the Society and AREN will be included as non-governmental organizations in the list of resources being compiled by ComReg.

### Spectrum Management Strategy

In early March 2008, ComReg published a draft Proposed Strategy for Managing the Radio Spectrum: 2008-2010.

ComReg's strategy for the period of the plan include

- Implementing the life-time licence
- Facilitating the short-term authorisation of visiting amateurs and updating the present guidelines document
- Modifying the format of repeater call signs
- Considering the allocation of spectrum around 500 kHz based on a common European position.

The IRTS has submitted a detailed response to this document.

### Morse Code

ComReg continues to require experimenters to pass a 5 wpm Morse test before issuing a CEPT Class 1 licence with a two letter suffix. The Society provides Morse testing facilities at rallies when requested.

### International Amateur Radio Union

At international level, National Societies throughout the world work together for the overall good of Amateur Radio under the auspices of a representative democracy, the International Amateur Radio Union – IARU.

It is through the work of the IARU that radio amateurs are able to devise agreed objectives and a unified strategy to seek to achieve them in the run up to World Radio Conferences of the ITU.

This is how the improvements at 7 MHz were achieved at WRC '03.

A small part of each member's annual subscription goes to help fund the work of the IARU. It behoves all who have the best interests of amateur radio at heart to join their National Society and contribute to and support the work of the IARU.

Like any other Union it works for the good of its members – the radio amateurs of the world.

The three yearly General Conference of Region 1 IARU will be

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(Continued from page 13)

held in Cavtat, Croatia from 16 to 21 November next.

For many years now the Society had maintained a special fund to allow the IRTS to be represented by two delegates at these three yearly Conferences. It is estimated that the cost of sending each representative is about a Euro per member per year.

### Theory Examination

Under an agreement concluded with ComReg on May 26th 2005 the Society took over responsibility for setting, organising and correcting the examination for the Experimenter's Licence. This collaborative venture with ComReg has been very successful.

Since IRTS took over responsibility for the examination just under three years ago, six examinations have been held.

A total of 126 candidates have sat these examinations and 75 (60%) have obtained a HAREC qualification which entitled them to apply for an experimenter licence.

This is probably the highest number ever to pass the examination in a three year period.

In June of last year for the first time under the new arrangement an examination was held outside Dublin when 25 candidates sat the examination in Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork on the same day on which a further 20 candidates sat the examination in Dublin.

Examinations will be held outside Dublin where it is appropriate in the light of the number and location of the candidates presenting for the examination.

The three year agreement concerning the theory examination signed in May 2005 is due to expire next month.

Arising from this, representatives of the Society held a very successful meeting with representatives of ComReg on April 9th. At this meeting it was decided that the agreement should be renewed for a further three year period.

A new agreement with minor amendments is being drawn up at present and should be signed shortly.

### Emergency Communications

The Amateur Radio Emergency network has seen continued growth over the past year.

At an operational level, six public Service events were supported.

There were no Emergency Call-outs but members were put on alert once for a severe weather alert and on another occasion by the South East Mountain Rescue Association, where AREN was already on the scene at a public service event.

AREN participated in two IARU International Emergency Communication Simulated Emergency Tests.

AREN was represented at GAREC 07 in Huntsville, Alabama, USA by recently appointed new National Coordinator John Ronan, EI7IG who delivered a presentation on the GAISS project, which was a collaboration between South East Mountain Rescue Association, AREN, and Waterford IT.

An AREN meeting was held in Clonmel with attendees representing the North West, Midlands, Dublin, South and South East areas reviewed progress to date and planned for the future. Guest speaker Paul Gaskell of Raynet travelled from the UK.

AREN are now represented at meetings of the South Tipperary Voluntary Emergency Services Committee.

This group are quite advanced in preparation for the adoption of the new National Emergency plan in which AREN are officially acknowledged.

AREN members will begin training with the voluntary services in May.

The committee would like to say thanks to John Ketch EI2GN who recently stepped down as National Coordinator for his efforts in getting AREN operating on a national basis and recognised by the emergency services.

### Publications

Echo Ireland was published five times in the past twelve months. Long time editor Dave EI4BZ is taking a break and the committee are actively seeking a new editor or editors.

The committee thanks Dave for his efforts over the years and appeals to members to support his successor by submitting news items, articles, photos and other information which may be of interest to fellow experimenters and listeners.

We would like to thank the regular contributors for their continued support.

A new call book was issued recently and our thanks to Joe EI7GY and Sean EI4GK for producing another excellent publication.

### IRTS Shop

The Society has an arrangement with the RSGB to provide an on-line book shop for IRTS members. All items are priced in Euros, with a 10% discount available for members.

There is a link from our website or you may go directly to [www.irtsshop.com](http://www.irtsshop.com)

IRTS will continue to have a presence at all rallies in the future but, once existing stocks are exhausted, sales will be confined to IRTS specific items such as Log-Books, Pin Badges, ties and maps etc. and to provide a contact point for membership applications and renewals.

Our thanks to Peter EI4HX, Pat EI2HX and Thos EI2JD who provided an IRTS presence at all rallies during the past year. A new stand was purchased and it looked well at the rallies.

### QSL Service

#### Outgoing Bureau

Tony Baldwin EI8JK our out-going QSL Manager recently reported that in the past year he had despatched over 56 kilos of parcels to foreign QSL bureaux.

We estimate this to be in excess of 19,600 QSL cards.

Again this year there were no stationary expenses (thanks to Shirley, Tony's XYL who brings home suitable sized boxes from work to recycle).

This year has seen another large drop in the amount of cards handled ....

2004 ....	35,700
2005 ....	43,400
2006 ....	31,150
2007 ....	19,600

There are many possible reasons why this may be - sunspot minima, Eqsl, LOTW ... ??

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

We again thank Tony for his trojan work and would ask members to follow the rules in the Handbook regarding the sorting of cards in order to assist Tony in his task.

### Incoming Bureau

On the in-coming side we also have an excellent network to ensure regular distribution of members' cards.

Mike EI2CL regularly collects many parcels of cards from abroad, together with other mail addressed to P.O. Box 462. Following an initial sort by Mike, the cards are passed to Pat EI2HX who distributes the cards to the sub-managers. Our thanks to Mike, Pat and all the in-coming sub-managers - John EI7FAB, Thos EI2JD, Jim EI3DP, Andy EI5JF, Rory EI4DJB, Ger EI4GXB, Brian EI8IU and David EI9FFB.

### Radio News

The Radio News is broadcast weekly on both 80 and 40 metres on Sunday mornings, usually from the Dublin area.

We are delighted to welcome a new volunteer news reader Roland Byrne EI4GYB from Co. Carlow who joins the team on the 80m news broadcasts.

The Committee is actively looking for further volunteers to join the HF newsreaders team and there is an urgent need for newsreaders on 2 metres in the Dublin area.

The news is also broadcast by clubs from several locations around the country, mainly on Monday and Tuesday nights.

Judging by the call-ins with reports, these broadcasts continue to be very popular with experimenters.

It can be a difficult job producing an interesting script every week. We ask that members, both individuals and clubs, submit items for the News as often as possible.

Our thanks to Mark EI7IS for his commitment to the Radio News and to the many newsreaders who give such great service week in, week out.

### Awards

The society is called on each year to validate a small number of applications by members for awards granted by other IARU Societies.

The Society's Worked All EI Counties Award (WEIC) is difficult to obtain and only four were issued during the past year.

It should become easier for the future due to the now annual 80 metre New Year Contest and the fact that it was decided last year that QSL cards would no longer be required.

The award is now issued on the basis of a log extract certified by an officer of a radio club or by two licensed radio experimenters/amateurs.

The Society's trophies which are awarded for contests as well as for services to the Society or to Amateur Radio will be presented in the course of the AGM.

### Contests

The Society directly organises six contests each year - CW, SSB and VHF Field Days, Spring and Autumn 2m Counties Contests and the 80m Counties Contest.

While the 2 metre and 80 metre contests are well supported, our Field Days could do with more participation.

We reached a new low in 2007 with only one entry, EI3Z/P, in the SSB field day and two stations EI2SDR/P and EI3Z/P participated in the CW Field Day.

Three stations entered the VHF/UHF Field Day, EI9E/P in the Open Section and EI3Z/P and EI7T/P in the restricted section. Congratulations to all involved with EI9E who also entered the RSGB Field day and were the highest scoring station overall.

In recent years, a central location in Ballinasloe has been used for the HF field days where restricted (100 watt) stations can co-exist happily in relatively close proximity to one another. This has been reasonably successful and the Saturday night barbecue put on by the Shannon Basin Club is a big feature of the event. We urge clubs and groups to consider participation this year. Stations may still operate from other locations and it does not take much effort to get a field day station on the air.

Advice is available from the Contest Manager.

The Society awards trophies for the leading EI stations in some of the international contests and we are always well represented in the bigger events.

### Web Site

The web site at [www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie) is an important link between the Society and its current membership, potential members and the outside world in general. Just over 50% of visitors to the site are from Ireland and about 25% are from the UK. Topical information from a variety of sources is included in the site and updated regularly.

During 2007, the site provided significant support for the AF-R175 DXpedition and the CQIR Contest, as well as other activities marking the Society's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Throughout the year, the most visited page was "This Week's News", which contains the news script from the previous Sunday's radio news. An archive of these scripts is also available, and it is worth noting that this archive now covers a period of more than 10 years, thus providing an invaluable record of amateur radio activity locally and internationally since 1998.

### Members Input

Our society is run totally on a voluntary basis and depends totally on the goodwill of members to keep all our services going on a day to day basis.

The Committee expresses its thanks to all members for their efforts, especially to our P.O. Box Manager, QSL Managers, radio newsreaders and all who provide input to both the radio and printed news services.

We look forward to their continuing support over the coming year.

In closing we must emphasise once again the democratic nature of the Society. All committee meetings are open to club representatives and full contact details of all officers are published in Echo Ireland and they are all more than willing to discuss any aspect of Society business with members.

There is no need or justification for anonymous attacks on the committee or members.

Any member who wants to get involved at any level should contact any committee member.

**Dave Moore EI4BZ, Hon. Secretary**

# Irish Radio Transmitters Society

## Treasurer's Report for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 to the Annual General Meeting

### Salthill Hotel, Galway on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2008

I have pleasure in presenting the Accounts for the year 2006 for approval.

The Society had another good year financially. Despite the additional costs associated with the Society's Jubilee Year, a surplus of €6,863 was achieved on day-to-day operations.

Sponsorship funds introduced into the accounts in 2006 were instrumental in covering some of the extra costs associated with the Jubilee Dinner and the CQIR Contest.

Additional outlay in connection with the CQIR Contests prizes will arise in 2008 but this will be covered by the remaining sponsorship monies,

A number of factors contributed to the overall surplus for the year:

1. On the income side, Examination fees were up considerably while both members subscriptions and investment income also increased.
2. On the expenditure side, 'Echo Ireland' was not published as regularly as planned and the printing and distribution of an up-to-date callbook was postponed until 2008.
3. The most important reason for the surplus was the continued ability of the Society to depend on the volunteer efforts of the Officers and Members who contribute their time, effort and money to further the aims of the Society.

The 2007 surplus has been added to the General Reserve which has now reached a figure of almost €43,000.

My thanks go to all those members who responded promptly to subscription renewal notices, to the President and Committee members who entrusted me with the Society's funds and especially to Ryan EI7GY whose membership database continues to amaze me.

Gerry Gervin EI8CC and Tom McLoughlin EI300 have been the Society's Auditors for close on 20 years. Their resignations take effect from this AGM and two new Auditors are being proposed for election. Gerry and Tom have been very helpful to me over the years and I take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to them.

*Signed:*

*Sean Donelan EI4GK, Hon. Treasurer*

### Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007

	2006	2006	2007	2007
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Equipment		Nil		Nil
Prize Bonds		£89		€89
Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc.		£754		€754
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Stock for Re-sale	€8,64		€482	
Cash on Deposit	€30,567		€41,431	
Cash at Bank	€13,339		€9,663	
		<u>€44,770</u>		<u>€51,576</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>€45,613</b>		<b>€52,419</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		Nil		Nil
<b><u>Surplus of Assets over Liabilities</u></b>		<b><u>€45,613</u></b>		<b><u>€52,419</u></b>
<b>Represented by:</b>				
General Reserve		€36,040		€42,903
IARU Conference Reserve		€3,743		€5,013
Jubilee Fund		€5,830		€4,503
		<u>€45,613</u>		<u>€52,419</u>

Signed

*Seán Donelan EI4GK, Hon. Treasurer*



# Irish Radio Transmitters Society

## Income and Expenditure Account for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007

# Irish Radio Transmitters Society

## Notes on, and forming part of the Accounts for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007

Income	2006	2007
Subscriptions	24,033	24,517
Donations	49	100
Advertising	1,010	987
Book Sales	(650)	(331)
CD Rom Sales	261	326
Investments & Bank Interest	688	1,049
Theory & Morse Tests	1,348	2,733
Less Expenses	107	50
WEIC etc.	5	25
Sponsorship of Jubilee Contest	5,000	0
	<u>31,637</u>	<u>29,356</u>

## Expenditure

Newsletter		
Printing	6,708	5,601
Postage/Delivery	4,655	11,363
Postage & Telephone		824
QSL Service Outgoing		974
QSL Service Incoming		552
Stationery & Admin.		492
P.O. Box Rental		220
Insurance		793
Committee Meetings		715
AGM Costs		760
Less Transfer form Jubilee fund		830
IARU Dues		888
Licence Fees		10
Conference Reserve		1,270
Bank Charges		386
Trophies etc.		852
Website Costs		299
Afri75 Dxpedition		0
Friedrichshafen Hamfest		0
CQIR Contest		0
Less Transfer from Jubilee Fund		497
Past President Badges		0
IRTS 75 QSL Cards		0
5MHz Beacon		0
Donations		0
Purchase of display unit and boards		0
Miscellaneous Costs		386
	<u>€20,784</u>	<u>22,493</u>
Surplus for Year	<u>€10,853</u>	<u>6,863</u>

## 1. Income

Subscriptions and Income received during the year were credited to the Income and Expenditure Account. Subscriptions covering any period after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 were not treated as prepaid. No provision was made for Subscriptions in arrears.

## 2. General Reserve

Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2007	€36,040
Add: Surplus for year 2007	€6,863
Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2007	<u>€42,903</u>

## 3 IARU Conference Reserve

Balance on 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2007	€3,743
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	€1,270
Sub Total	€5,013
Less Expenses 2007	Nil
Balance on 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2007	<u>€5,013</u>

## 4 Jubilee Fund

Balance on January 1st 2007	€5,830
Less: AGM Costs	€830
Less: CQIR Expenditure	€497
Balance on December 31st 2007	<u>€4,503</u>

## 5. Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc

Shares in Irish Life and Permanent plc are shown in the Balance Sheet at the issue price of €754 (330 shares @ €2.29 per share). The Market Value of these shares on 3rd April 2008 was €1,191 (€12.70 per share)

## 6 Cash on Deposit

Balance on January 1st 2007	€30,567
Balance on December 31st 2006	€41,431

## 7 Equipment

All equipment in the ownership of the Society has been fully depreciated.

## Auditors Report

*We, the undersigned, acting as Honorary Auditors of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, have compared the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Notes thereon, with the books and vouchers of the Society and certify that they are correct and in accordance with them.*

*Signed:*

*Thomas McLoughlin EI400  
Ger Gervin EI8CC  
March 31st 2008*

# South Tipperary Voluntary Emergency Services Exercise

by  
**Bernard Tyers, EI8FDB**

The South Tipperary Voluntary Emergency Services Group held a Emergency Services event in Clogheen, Tipperary on the morning of May 10th 2008.

The main focus of the day was to meet other voluntary groups, learn from and educate other groups about AREN's capabilities.

The main events were round-table displays and exercises which gave attendees an insight into each groups skills.

Organisations in attendance were:

Civil Defence [1]

Red Cross [2]

AREN - Amateur Radio Emergency Network [3]

SEMRA - South Eastern Mountain Rescue Association, along with SARDA, the Search And Rescue Dog Association. [4] [5]  
Order Of Malta [6]

In all, over 40 voluntary members attended.

Registration begun at 9:30 in Clogheen. Attendees from each organisation were split-up into groups made up of other organisation members, helping the cross-organisation communications in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

The morning begun with a short 5 minute introduction to each organisation, its beginnings, its members, what their capabilities are, their equipment, and where they are based.

AREN member, Richie Ryan, EI9HR, gave a very interesting introduction to amateur radio and AREN operations.

One member of each group then went to set-up the round-table display for the days activities. Each event took approximately 20 minutes. The events were held in the near-by Parsons Green campsite.

Each round robin was run in parallel to all the others, and each group moved between them.

## Civil Defence

The first event was from the Civil Defence members. From the beginning of the Civil Defence in Ireland, radiation monitoring has been the main activity of their "Warden Service".

The Warden's role is to take radioactive readings in the event of a radiological incident. Members of the service are trained in many disciplines such as communication procedures and leadership techniques as well as in the reporting of radioactive readings. [6]

The speakers gave a presentation of the main radiation monitoring techniques - a low-level radiation detector which measures down to normal background radiation levels and a second type of instrument would be used to detect and measure the far higher levels of radioactive fallout resulting from nuclear detonations in war.

## Red Cross

The next event was from the Red Cross. The Irish Red Cross Society (IRCS) was established by an Act of the Oireachtas on 1 August 1939. The Irish Red Cross is dedicated to the provision of Emergency and Humanitarian Relief both at home and abroad through its network of volunteers both nationally and internationally.

In Ireland, the Red Cross provides both emergency services through its Mountain Rescue Team as well as a variety of broadly-based community services including youthwork and care for the sick and elderly. [7]

The Red Cross members gave a very useful introduction to the operation of, and application of an Advisory External Defibrillator (AED). [8]

An AED is a small, portable piece of equipment that can deliver an electric shock to a victim of cardiac arrest in order to convert the chaotic electrical current of the heart to its normal rhythm.

Every attendee at the day was given the opportunity to practise using an AED and applying CPR.

The instructors stressed the importance of commencing CPR as quickly as possible and the target time for defibrillation is less than 5 minutes.

After the Red Cross display, everyone broke for lunch "al fresco", out in the sunshine.

## AREN

After lunch, it was AREN's turn to show what we can do. [9]

John, EI7IG, had set-up radio comms capabilities for HF, VHF, UHF and APRS. John gave an introduction to radio technique, pro-words, and basic radio theory. [10]

A lot of attendees had some very useful questions regarding radio operation and "what to do with them".

John had scheduled QSOs with some EI stations, including Jim Claffey EI2DDB in Dublin and John EI2JA in Waterford, on HF by utilising the NVIS antenna setup. [11]

All-in-all attendees seemed very pleased with AREN's presentation and made very pleasant comments at the Q&A session at the end.

## SEMRA

The final presentation was given by SEMRA. The team was formed in 1976 when a need for such an accident occurred in the mountains. Currently, SEMRA has about 50 members. The team operate, as their name describes, on the mountains of the South East of Ireland, the Blackstairs, Comeragh, Knockmeasdown and Galtee mountain ranges and all areas in between.

Occasionally they assist other Mountain Rescue teams, such as Dublin/ Wicklow, Glen of Imaal and Kerry MRT's, An Gardaí, Search & Rescue Dogs Association (SARDA), and The Irish Coastguard. [12]

The SEMRA presenters organised a search skills exercise for



**John EI7IG**

attendees which focused on "common sense skills". The exercise entailed searching for objects of various sizes, from a piece of tubing to a pair of glasses, to a child's toy, all using techniques such as "purposeful wandering", and "hasty searches". [13] [14]

While they maybe common sense skills, we all agreed that carrying out a search, possibly for an object as small as a set of keys on the side of a hill, is something that needs a lot of skill, practice and training.

After all groups had attended each round-table exercise everyone was treated to a demonstration by SARDA, Search And Rescue Dogs Association.

### SARDA

SARDA is a voluntary 999/112 emergency search and rescue organisation concerned with the training, assessment and deployment of Air Scenting Search and Rescue Dogs, to search for missing persons in the mountains, woodlands, rural and urban areas including rivers, lakes and seashores, as well as avalanches and demolished buildings.

SEMRA setup a search exercise in a very large field, with different terrain. All attendees were asked to line-up, at the bottom of the field, to try and find the "missing object". [15] After 15 minutes and a number of embarrassing "human errors", Mick Grant and his search dog, Bono, arrived to the "search area".

All humans, dead or alive, constantly emit microscopic particles bearing human scent. Millions of these particles are airborne and are carried by the wind for considerable distances. The air scenting SAR dog is trained to locate the scent of any human in a specific search area. The dog is not restricted to the missing person's track and can search long after the track is obliterated. [16]

Within, 3-4 minutes Bono and Mick had found the missing object, a member of SEMRA laying in long grass. They certainly put the rest of us to shame!

After the SARDA demonstration, to close the day we had the final "team-building" event - penalty shoot-out.

After a very tense, nerve-racking shoot-out, as always, the best team won - AREN 3, SEMRA 2, Civil Defence 1.

After the photos were taken, there was a final Q&A session



where each attendee gave feedback regarding the day. The general consensus: more events like this, more situation exercises, more time spent at each session.

Back in Clogheen, Civil Defence treated us to a very tasty buffet which gave everyone an opportunity to chat about the days happenings.

### References:

- [1]: <http://www.civildefence.ie/>
- [2]: <http://www.redcross.ie/>
- [3]: <http://www.aren.ie/>
- [4]: <http://www.semra.ie/>
- [5]: <http://sardaireland.com/>
- [6]: <http://www.orderofmalta.ie/>
- [7]: [http://www.redcross.ie/about\\_us\\_1](http://www.redcross.ie/about_us_1)
- [8]: [http://www.redcross.ie/how\\_to\\_help/campaigns/what\\_is\\_a\\_defibrillator](http://www.redcross.ie/how_to_help/campaigns/what_is_a_defibrillator)
- [9]: <http://www.aren.ie/faq.html>
- [10]: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic\\_Position\\_Reporting\\_System](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic_Position_Reporting_System)
- [11]: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near\\_Vertical\\_Incidence\\_Skywave](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near_Vertical_Incidence_Skywave)
- [12]: <http://www.semra.ie/facts.shtml>
- [13]: <http://www.uwsp.edu/geo/faculty/heywood/geog344/SAR/SARtypes.htm>
- [14]: <http://www.pcesar.org/searchtech.htm>
- [15]: <http://sardaireland.com/viewpage.php?memid=3>
- [16]: <http://sardaireland.com/viewpage.php?memid=4>

If you would like to get involved in Voluntary Emergency Radio Communications, please contact the IRTS AREN Co-ordinator:- John Ronan EI7IG, 56 Meadowbrook, Tramore, County Waterford.  
Work +353 51 302938: Home +353 51 330890:  
Mobile +353 86 8167310 ei7ig@aren.ie



## 80m Counties Contest Results 2008

### a) SSB only Fixed

		Points	QSO's	Mults	Cnty
EI9HX	Pat O'Connor	12,121	136	31	ROS
EI4GYB	Roland Byrne	12,060	161	30	CAR
EI8CE	Aidan McGrath	11,780	125	31	WAT
EI2JD	Thos Caffrey	11,190	136	30	LOU
EI5FK	Charles Coughlan	10,500	119	30	COR
EI2CA	Paul Martin	10,110	106	30	MEA
EI7CD	Sean Nolan	9,947	112	29	DUB
EI9O	Eoin Fagan	9,210	103	30	LON
EI3GDB	Jim Hayes	9,180	100	30	LIM
EI3GRB	Robert Muir	8,700	93	29	CLA
EI6GF	Michael McLoughlin	8,323	86	29	WEX
EI5GTB	Paul Sinclair	6,931	70	29	DON
EI7CC	Peter Ball	6,524	65	28	DUB
EI9FVB	Declan Horan	6,188	64	26	COR
EI3FFB	Eamonn Kavanagh	6,006	66	26	TIP
EI2V	Irish Air Corps ARC	5,535	58	27	DUB
EI1CS	Finbarr Buckley	5,512	62	26	COR
EI8IU	Brian Canning	4,992	61	24	LEI
EI2GCB	James Kelly	4,536	54	2	MAY
EI2CL	Michael McNamara	4,394	43	26	DUB
EI4CP	Jim Smith	4,200	49	24	WIC
EI2GO	William Fahy	4,050	42	25	COR
EI5FQB	Clifford Beck	3,840	46	24	OFF
EI8IQ	Pat Whitty	3,611	43	23	WEX
EI2GLB	Trevor Dunne	3,600	39	25	WES
EI3ENB	Paul Norris	3,575	38	25	KLK
EI3GYB	Michael Foertig	2,970	45	18	MAY
EI5GLB	Victor Loughlin	2,924	49	17	LAO
EI4GXB	Ger McNamara	2,520	33	21	CLA
EI4JN	Conor O'Neill	2,442	30	22	COR
EI7JG	John Williams	1,552	25	16	DUB
EI7GM	Paul Kearney	1,022	19	14	DUB

### Outside EI

G3ZVW	Steve White	9,360	78	30	
MI0JBT	Jim-Bob Traynor	7,857	92	27	DER
M0WKR	Neil Clarke	6,944	69	28	
GI8SKN	David Reid	6,021	52	27	ANT
M0DDT	Colin Potter	5,512	53	26	
GI0RQK	Colin Williamson	4,825	58	25	ANT
GM8OEG	Andy Swiffin	4,576	44	26	
G3WPF	Reg Unsworth	3,360	35	24	
G8MIA	Andy Malbon	3,264	34	24	
MU0FAL	Colin Fallaize	1,728	24	18	
G0MTN	Lee Volante	1,200	20	15	
GI4AAM	Bill Langtry	1,184	20	16	DOW
G7RTI	Klaus Werner	672	14	12	
G6UBM	Lee Featherstone	320	10	8	

### b) SSB only Portable \*EI\*

EI2MRG/P	Mayo - Roscommon - Galway				
Radio Experimenters Group	6,876	78	26	MAY	

### c) SSB/CW Fixed

EI4CF	Niall Foley	10,108	112	28	GAL
EI7GY	Joe Ryan	6,323	63	23	DUB
EI8FI	Kevin Keane	1,534	34	13	KER
EI8FH	Malcolm Joyce	1,040	20	13	DUB

### Outside EI

GI0RTN	Gerry Lynch	13,440	175	30	ANT
M0AAA	Reading & District ARC	436	12	10	
G4BUO	Dave Lawley	140	7	5	

### d) SSB/CW Portable

No entry

### e) SWL

OK1-11861	36	3	3		
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## Irish Centenary Scouting Jamboree 2008

The amateur radio team at the Irish Centenary Jamboree 2008 at Punchestown - July 30th to August 11th still has places available for team members/station operators.

At the time of writing the team comprised EI3IP, EI9FHB, GI4FUM (EI4DJ), EI4FNB, DK8ZN, EI7AF, G4GET.

If you are interested in joining the team please contact Sean O'Suilleabhain EI3IP at [jota@scouts.ie](mailto:jota@scouts.ie)

## Yaesu Sponsor Log Book of the World

The ARRL welcomes Yaesu as the principal sponsor of the Logbook of The World (LoTW) <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>> Web site.

LoTW is a repository of log records submitted by users from around the world; when both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. With almost 21,000 amateurs registered on LoTW, more than 170 million QSO records have been entered into the five year old system, resulting in more than 13.4 million QSL records.

"Yaesu is absolutely delighted to be the Principal Sponsor supporting the extremely popular ARRL Logbook of The World Web site," said Yaesu's Executive Vice President for Amateur Radio Sales and Marketing Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV. "It provides Yaesu with an opportunity to serve the Amateur Radio community. We hope LoTW users will note our support and judge this action for what it is intended to be -- a 'Thank You' to the thousands of avid DXers and other active operators worldwide." In return for its sponsorship of the LoTW Web site, Yaesu will receive promotional consideration in QST and on the LoTW Web site.

Motschenbacher said he understands that hams have felt the "pain" of postal price increases around the world: "I am certain that a huge number of hams have had to give up their dream of having prestigious ARRL certificates and plaques on their wall simply because they could no longer afford the postage costs associated with exchanging QSL cards to verify contacts. Those QSO verifications are, however, absolutely essential for maintaining the integrity of ARRL's DXCC and other awards. LoTW, with its global acceptance, now allows nearly everyone interested in the excitement that goes along with chasing DX and awards to provide most if not all of the required all-important QSO verifications without burdensome postage expenses. LoTW provides a very valuable service for both the individual users and ARRL."

## Port Talbot Repeater GB3WW Relocated

A relocated 2 metre repeater GB3WW was commissioned on Saturday 17th May.

Frequency RV62 (R7) 144.775/144.175MHz 1750Hz tone. CTCSS - 'F'

Antenna/Tower height - 200ft agl.

Location :- Port Talbot, South Wales.

Height asl :- 370m (1215ft) Foel Fynyddau Mountain.

Lat :- 51.628432 N Long:- - 3.761802 W

NGR :- SHEET # 170 SS781936. QRA :- IO81CP

This location has a substantial take off over the Bristol Channel.



## EI's on EQSL

(as at June 9 2008)

DXCC Confirmed			Worked All States		
177	EI7BA (+2)	Approved	50	EI9FBB	Approved
162	EI3IO (+6)		50	EJ9FBB	Approved
152	EI4CF (+6)	Approved	50	EI9HQ	
140	EI7CC		50	EJ9HQ	
138	EI2JD (+4)	Approved	50	EI4CF (+2)	
133	EI9FBB (+6)	Approved	45	EI6HB	
126	EJ9FBB	Approved	45	EI3IO	
115	EI6IZ	Approved	45	EI4IS	
97	EI6HB		43	EI8GP	
96	EI9HQ (+3)	Approved	42	EI7BA	
92	EJ9HQ	Approved	41	EI7JN (+4)	
92	EI5IF (+7)		38	EI2JD	
89	EI8IU		37	EI5IF	
88	EI6AL (+1)	Approved	33	EI7CC (+1)	
83	EI6JK		27	EI6JK (+5)	
81	EI3GYB		25	<b>EI9JM (New)</b>	
80	EI8FH	Approved	17	EI0W	
79	EI9FVB				
78	EI9ES	Approved			
69	EI7IX	Approved			
67	EI2II	Approved			
65	EI7M				
65	EI8DL	Approved			
65	<b>EI4GNB (New)</b>		39	EI7BA	
62	EI8GP		38	EI9FBB	
61	EI4IS		37	EI3IO	
61	EI4HH (+7)	Approved	38	EI4CF	
60	EI7JN		34	EI2JD (+1)	
59	EI8DD		33	EI7CC	
58	EI9JF		31	EI5IF	
58	EI9JM (+4)		25	EI6JK	
57	EI4HQ (+6)		22	EI7JN	
57	EI/DH0GSU/p		16	EI0W	
56	EI1DG				
55	EI0CZ				
54	EI7IQ				
53	EI8JR				
52	EI3HA (+2)		870	EI4CF	
50	EI6AK		736	EI2JD (+39)	Approved
50	EI6CPB	Approved	632	EI3IO (+7)	
49	<b>EI2FSB (New)</b>		609	EI9HQ (+20)	
48	EI0W		573	EI7CC (+55)	
47	EI7BFB		538	EI9FBB (+34)	Approved
47	<b>EI9O (New)</b>		440	EI7BA	
46	EI7BMB		382	EI6JK (+38)	
46	EI6ARB (+2)	Approved	348	EI5IF	
44	EI8JK		343	EI9FVB (+16)	
43	EI7IM		291	EI9JM (+98)	
41	EI3EBB		250	EI0W (+10)	
39	EI6IF		213	EI7JN	
39	EI9CF		167	EI8IU	
34	EI3JB		166	EI8DL	
34	EI1KARG (+2)				
30	EI90GPO				
27	<b>EI3GDB (New)</b>				
25	EI2FS				
25	EI7GM				
23	EI7IW				
20	EI0CPL				
20	EI2IV				

<http://www.eqsl.cc/eqslcard/eDX100Standings.cfm?SortOrder=C>

Report submitted by EI2JD

## EI DXCC Listings

(as at June 9th 2008)

<b>Mixed</b>					
346	<b>EI7CC</b>	*	160m		
340	EI2GS		147	EI3IO	
339	EI8H		80m		
339	EI6FR		115	<b>EI9FBB</b>	New
324	EI6S		106	EI7BA	
316	<b>EI3IO</b>	*	104	EI4BZ	
306	EI2HY		40m		
270	EI2CR		156	<b>EI9FBB</b>	*
262	EI2GX		112	EI7GL	
257	<b>EI9FBB</b>	*	112	EI4BZ	
238	EI7BA		112	EI7BA	
232	EI4BZ		109	EI2JD	
230	EI9JF		30m		
217	EI2JD		106	EI4BZ	
189	EI8IU		104	EI7BA	
175	EI6IZ		20m		
152	<b>EI6HB</b>	*	213	<b>EI9FBB</b>	*
151	EI5GM		153	EI7BA	
128	EI8HA		150	EI4BZ	
114	EI9HQ		148	EI2JD	
103	<b>EI6AL</b>	New	121	EI9JF	
<b>Phone</b>			111	EI8GS	
344	EI7CC		110	EI3GV	
338	EI2GS		100	EI9HQ	
331	EI8AR		17m		
330	EI8EM		137	<b>EI9FBB</b>	New
320	EI6S		124	EI7BA	
300	EI8AU		15m		
277	EI3GV		164	EI4BZ	
253	EI4GK		130	<b>EI9FBB</b>	*
251	<b>EI9FBB</b>	*	121	EI7BA	
229	EI8GS		114	EI2JD	
202	EI2JD		109	EI8GS	
186	EI7II		108	EI3GV	
177	EI9FE		12m	No entry	
177	EI9JF		10m		
175	EI7BA		134	EI4BZ	
166	EI7GL		128	EI4GK	
165	EI2CH		124	EI2JD	
147	EI4BZ		113	EI7GL	
135	EI8IU		104	EI8GS	
119	EI4HH		104	<b>EI9FBB</b>	New
114	EI4EX		100	EI7BA	
109	EI9HQ		6m		
108	<b>EI6HB</b>	*	153	<b>EI3IO</b>	*
105	EI9HX		104	EI7GL	
105	EI1CS		101	EI3EBB	
101	EI3IP		2m	No entry	
<b>CW</b>			QRP DXCC	No Entry	
312	<b>EI7CC</b>	*	DXCC Challenge		
220	EI4BZ		1439	<b>EI7CC</b>	*
209	EI7BA		1203	<b>EI3IO</b>	*
163	EI6IZ		DXCC Honor Roll		
135	<b>EI9FBB</b>	*	Mixed		
134	EI2JD		346	<b>EI7CC</b>	*
134	EI8IU		340	EI2GS	
128	EI9JF		334	EI6FR	
109	EI2IH		Phone		
109	EI4HM		344	EI7CC	
107	EI/GM4ARJ		338	EI2GS	
106	EI1DG		RTTY/Digital		
100	<b>EI6AL</b>	New	102	<b>EI6HB</b>	New
<b>Satellite</b>		No Entry	Updates are marked *		

# Awards presented at the 2008 AGM

## **IRTS DX Trophy**

Leading IRTS Member in the single operator sections  
of the annual RSGB IOTA contest

**Dave Court EI3IO**

## **Hal Hodgens Trophy**

Top scoring IRTS Member in the 12 hour CW  
section of the RSGB IOTA contest

**Peter Morrison, EI9ES**

## **IRTS IOTA Trophy**

Leading island (EJ) DX-pedition station in the annual  
RSGB IOTA contest

**EJ0GI - South Dublin Radio Club**

## **Pete Daly Memorial Cup**

Winning station in the open section of the IRTS CW Field Day  
(not contested)

## **Paddy Smyth Memorial Cup**

Leading station in the restricted section of the IRTS CW  
Field Day

**EI2SDR/P - South Dublin Radio Club**

## **Paddy Daly Microphone**

Winning station in the open section of the IRTS SSB Field Day  
(not contested)

## **IRTS HF Shield**

Leading station in the restricted section of the  
IRTS SSB Field Day

**EI3Z/P - Shannon Basin Radio Club**

## **Thomond Trophy**

Winning station in the open section of the  
IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day

**EI9E/P**

## **Shandon Trophy**

Top station in the restricted section of the  
IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day

**EI3Z/P - Shannon Basin Radio Club**

## **Tom Donnellan EI9BG Cup**

Top IRTS Member in the CW single op section of the  
CQWW DX contest

**Barry Merrill /EI/W5GN**

## **Arup Cup**

Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio.

**John Tait, EI7BA**

## **Michael Collins Memorial Trophy**

Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio

**Tony Baldwin, EI8JK**

## **Pat Conway Perpetual Memorial Trophy**

Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio

**Enda Broderick EI2II**

## **Sheila Piper Cup**

Service to the IRTS News Service

**Dave Moore EI4BZ**

## **The President's Cup**

Presented at the discretion of the President of the Society

Awarded for exceptional and consistent service as  
QSL Manager and on the IRTS stand at Rallies

**Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX**

## **Folan Shield**

For home constructed equipment

**Aengus Cullinan, EI4ABB**

## **Kevin Freeny Trophy**

For proficiency in equipment construction

**Pierce O'Brien, EI4CI**

## **Ian Morris Memorial Trophy**

SWL with the highest number of DXCC entities  
in the previous calendar year

(no entry)

## **EI7IQ National 6 Metre Shield**

Leading EI/EJ IRTS member for 6 metre activity in the  
previous calendar year

**Charles Coughlan, EI5FK**

## **EI7IQ National 4 Metre Shield**

Leading EI/EJ IRTS member for 4 metre activity in the  
previous calendar year

**David Court, EI3IO**

## **Slievenamon Shield**

Leading EI station operating FM on 70cms during July  
(no entry)

## **Cork Radio Club**

### **Annual Rally**

\*\*\*\*\***New Venue**\*\*\*\*\*

### **Montenotte Hotel, Cork City**

<http://www.themontenottehotel.com/>

**Contact Con EI7DJB**

**021-4270136**

## **The Marconi Radio Group**

### **Amateur Radio Rally**

**Sunday 29th July**

### **Manor Hotel in Ballymoney**

More information from

**Melvyn MI0MSR at 07821129405**

**[melvyn.irvine225@btinternet.com](mailto:melvyn.irvine225@btinternet.com)**

**Doors open at 12 noon.**

# Amateur Radio - Hobby or a Help?

by  
Tim McKnight EI5GPB



Conor EI4JN in action as Radio Coordinator at the West Cork Rally

Have you ever thought that your hobby could be both a source of enjoyment for you *and* a valuable tool to help others? Radio experimenters are often called ‘amateurs,’ but for many the term ‘semi-professional’ would be more accurate—at least in the eyes of those who haven’t a clue about the workings of wireless communications unless it involves the words ‘plug and play.’

Consider a sporting event that is spread across 250 square kilometers, with time-critical communications essential to provide safety for competitors and spectators, to report on course conditions so that event organizers can make immediate alterations if needed, and to provide for real-time tracking of results. Just such an event took place on the weekend before St. Patrick’s Day—the annual West Cork Motor Rally held in and around Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

Over 150 cars competed in this two-day fixture that covers some of the most scenic coastline and lanes in the country. Each morning and afternoon of the rally there were two courses or ‘stages’ of about 10km each, with each stage being run twice. Therefore, the rally had 16 stages plus a final ‘spectators stage’ along the streets of Clonakilty. The noise and smell of tuned engines is not to everyone’s liking, but the excitement is undeniable as cars routinely reached 125mph on lanes full of blind curves and sharp turns. There were of course many small crashes and more than a few major ones, including the car that jumped a ditch and came to rest upside down in a bog. The cars themselves are a marvel to behold, and it is sobering to see letters like A, B and O followed by a ‘+’ or ‘-’ printed after the

names of driver and navigator on the outside of the cars. It is a reminder that this can be a dangerous sport, with blood type being a potentially critical piece of information.

An example of amateur expertise being used to benefit these competitors and others is Conor O’Neill EI4JN, Assistant Clerk of Course of the West Cork Rally. Assisted by Ciaran Moynihan and Tim McKnight EI5GPB, Conor served as Radio Coordinator with responsibility to drive the route of each of the 17 stages just after it was closed to public traffic and check that each radio point along the stage was operational. If not, he had to troubleshoot it then and there.

On the second of Day One’s morning stages, the start marshal’s radio refused to transmit. After swapping three transceivers, two antennas and two power leads, it was finally determined that his car engine was preventing the radio from sending DCS codes necessary to open the repeater (now thought to be due to the engine’s high performance spark plugs). After exhausting all other possibilities, the engine was switched off and the problem was solved!

On another stage, a steep cliff face along a particularly dangerous stretch of the course prevented the marshal’s mobile transceiver from reaching the repeater. Quick thinking solved the problem by giving the marshal a handheld operating on another frequency to communicate with another marshal situated across the estuary on higher ground with a clear line of sight to the rally’s repeater. Getting the handheld to the remote marshal involved a 500-meter sprint there and back so that remaining radios on the stage could be checked before start of the stage.

spilled fuel along a stage that, when combined with the rainy conditions, created an extremely slippery road surface. Radios were used to communicate this back to the start of the stage so that all competitors that followed were advised of the danger.

The start of the morning stage of Day Two was delayed because of fifty head of cattle plodding to a field further down the track of that stage—proof that technology cannot solve all problems.

You may find it interesting to follow such an event with a bird’s eye view—possible only with the aid of radio communications. Next time you find yourself at a motor rally almost anywhere in the country, you can probably monitor rally control by tuning your scanner or wide-band receiver to 163.450 MHz. That will give you a ring-side seat to all parts of the event and immediate knowledge of what has happened and where.

On the other hand, if you’re looking for a way to use your hobby to serve others, why not consider contacting the organizers of local events such as motor rallies, marathons, sponsored walks, etc. to see if they can use your expertise? They may well be grateful to have you. Another option is to consider joining AREN, the IRTS’ Amateur Radio Emergency Network. AREN volunteers work with services such as the Fire Service, Civil Defence, Garda, Mountain Rescue, Health Service Executive, and Voluntary Ambulance Services to provide communications in the event of certain emergency situations.

It’s amazing to think that a humble hobby such as ours could be a life-saver to someone.



Competitors’ blood type can be a critical piece of informa-

One competitor’s car

# Tracing Household Interference Issues

by

IRTS EMC Manager - Brendan Minish EI6IZ

There are unlikely to be many active amateurs who have not at some time had issues with interference to radio reception from household electronic devices.

In most cases interference issues can be resolved but first we need to identify the sources of interference that are causing the problems.

Here I hope to explain some of steps that you can do to help identify and resolve your local noise sources.

One of the most effective methods of identifying sources of interference is by eliminating all local noise sources on a temporary basis and then observing what happens as devices are reintroduced.

The best approach for this process is to proceed as follows.

In the shack you will need to arrange for your radio to be battery powered on a temporary basis, this is so that you can continue to listen for noise after the mains is shut off.

Next you need to ensure that your radio is not connected in any way to anything other than your antenna and your antenna should be connected directly to the radio. All other antennas should be disconnected from any switching or grounding arrangements you have in place.

The goal here is to eliminate any connections between the mains (& mains earth) and your rig/antenna. For testing we also want to ensure that all other antennas are also disconnected from antenna switches and radios.

First steps:

Now that you are listing to a radio powered independently of the mains on an antenna system independent of the mains earth it's time to consider the following.

- Have noise levels decreased noticeably?
- Does reconnecting your station to the mains earth increase noise levels?

If your answer is yes to both of these questions then you have common mode noise issues which may need addressing if the noise sources don't yield to other solutions.

Reconnect your radio and antennas in their normal configuration but leave the radio running off batteries for now.

The next step is to turn off the mains electricity to the entire house at the main fuse board, using the main switch.

- Have noise levels dropped noticeably?
- Spend a while tuning around the bands have the background noise levels decreased?

If removing the mains at the distribution board has reduced your noise level then it is probable that there are one or more sources of noise in your house.

These can be identified by restoring power to one household circuit at a time and observing which circuits cause an increase in noise levels when power is restored.

Once you have identified a household circuit that powers one or more noisy devices it's time to go around the rooms serviced by that circuit, one socket at a time to see if you can identify the noise generating devices powered off that circuit.

Don't ignore lighting circuits as some of the new energy efficient bulbs and low voltage lighting systems that are now in use can be significant sources of radio interference.

Once you have identified all the noise sources in the house it's time to see what can be done to improve the situation. The remedy for some devices may be as simple as ensuring that they are powered off at the socket when not in use, this saves money too!

Other devices may respond well to having their power supply lead coiled several times around a ferrite choke.

In testing, the RSGB found that Phillips brand CFL bulbs perform very well from an EMC perspective.

In addition to this I would be most interested in running tests on any particularly noisy examples of CFL bulbs that are found by members since all CFL bulbs must meet the CE EMC standards and non-compliant bulbs may not be imported into the EU.

If you have noise that is traced back to computer or telephone equipment or cases where a device is connected to wiring other than the mains, then you will find a near field loop an invaluable device for establishing how the noise is being radiated or conducted away from the source.

A near field loop will only pick up signals when it is placed within a few cm of the noise source or conductors carrying the noise.



A near field loop probe is simple to construct, it consists of an insulated single turn loop, about 3cm in diameter at the end of a piece of coax. You use the near field loop in conjunction with a portable receiver or scanner that covers in AM or SSB over the range of frequencies we are concerned with.

The near field probe can be used to identify how the noise is being radiated from the offending item, for example noise generated by your computer equipment might be using the telephone line or network cabling as the 'antenna' to radiate the noise.

Sometimes it can be external USB devices or cabling that is radiating (or even generating) the noise.

The noise probe can help you identify precisely the sources of the noise and help with locating the best places to apply ferrite chokes or filters to mitigate the noise.



If you identified common mode noise issues in the first steps of this exercise here are some things that may help.

Common mode noise is a problem where mains-borne noise gets onto the outer shield of your coax and control cables where it gets radiated in the vicinity of your antennas.

Unless you can operate your station in complete isolation from the mains then the problem needs to be addressed by preventing the noise from getting as far as your antenna systems.

1. Use baluns at dipole centers and when feeding doublet antennas such as the G5RV.
2. With HF verticals and end fed wires try to improve your radial system.
3. Try to arrange for your coaxial feeders and control cables to run underground.
4. Clamp several large ferrite chokes on each coax where it exists the shack, don't forget to choke control lines for rotators and remote switching as these too can conduct noise out to your antennas where it then gets into your antenna system.
5. Ensure that your household earth is in good working order and that any additional earthing for your radio equipment is correctly bonded to the household earth. Having a separate radio earth is a severe safety risk. If in doubt consult with a suitably qualified electrician.
6. Use your near field loop to identify if any particular cable is carrying more noise than the others, if so first try to identify why this might be the case and take appropriate measures.

The issue of EMC (interference) is a complex one, I hope that this article helps you to begin locating and resolving sources of interference.

I would be most interested in hearing how you get on.

I am also able to help with more specific EMC advice once the noise sources have been identified.

Happy hunting!

73

Brendan Minish EI6IZ

ei6iz.brendan@gmail.com

086 2501832

## Islands On The Air Contest EI Records

Callsign	QSOs	Mults	Points	IOTA	Year
DX-pedition, Multi-Op, High Power, 24 hour					
EJ2MT	3,029	505	10,202,615	EU-121	2005
DX-pedition, Multi-Op, Low Power, Single Elements					
EJ7M	1,336	239	1,924,428	EU-121	2003
DX-pedition, Single Op, Unassisted, Mixed, 24 Hour, Low Power					
EI9JQ	788	161	884,856	EU-115	2007
Fixed, Multi-Op, High Power, Mixed, 24 hour					
EI7M	2,632	417	6,194,952	EU-115	2002
Fixed, Single Op, Unassisted, High Power Mixed, 24 hour					
EI5DI	1,052	190	1,243,718	EU-115	1999
Fixed, Single Op, Unassisted, Low Power Mixed, 24 hour					
EI4CF	628	101	336,936	EU-115	2007
Fixed, Single Op, Unassisted, CW, 24 hour					
EI4BZ	660	115	477,480	EU-115	2001
Fixed, Single Op, Unassisted, SSB, 24 hour					
EI8IR	2,091	217	2,546,061	EU-115	2004
Fixed, Single Op, Assisted, SSB, 24 hour					
EI2JD	485	115	454,365	EU-115	2003
Fixed, Single Op, Unassisted, High Power Mixed, 12 hour					
EI8GS	970	94	446,124	EU-115	2007
Fixed, Single Op, Unassisted, High Power CW, 12 hour					
EI4DW	382	76	181,944	EU-115	2002
Fixed, Single Op, Unassisted, High Power SSB, 12 hour					
EI7GL	424	151	612,456	EU-115	2001
Fixed, Single Op, Unassisted, Low Power SSB, 12 hour					
EI4CF	457	99	281,853	EU-115	2006
Fixed, Single Op, Assisted, Low Power CW, 12 hour					
EI9ES	50	18	6,804	EU-115	2007

## IOTA Contest July 26/27th 2008

## Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards directly to the Outgoing Bureau Manager:

**Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,**  
**Rathlin, Kilcrohane, Co. Cork.**  
**ei8jk@amsat.org**

# Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

## June 2008

7- 8	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	Open Season Ten Meter PSK Contest	BPSK31
7- 8	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	SEANET Contest	CW/SSB/RTTY
<b>7- 8</b>	<b>Sat 1500 - Sun 1459</b>	<b>IARU Region 1 Field Day</b>	<b>CW</b>
8	Sun 0000 - 2359	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW
14-15	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	ANARTS WW RTTY Contest	Digi
14	Sat 0000 - 2400	Portugal Day Contest	SSB
14-15	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	CW
14-15	Sat 1600 - Sun 0200	West Virginia QSO Party	CW/SSB
21-22	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	All Asian DX Contest	CW
25	Wed 1700 - 1900	BCC QSO Party	CW/SSB
28-29	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	H. M. The King of Spain Contest	SSB
28-29	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	RTTY/PSK31
28-29	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	MARCONI Memorial Contest HF	CW
28-29	Sat 1800 - Sun 2100	ARRL Field Day	All

## July 2008

1	Tue 0000 - 2359	RAC Canada Day Contest	CW/Phone
<b>5-6</b>	<b>Sat 1400-Sun 1400</b>	<b>VHF/UHF Field Day</b>	<b>CW/Phone</b>
5- 6	Sat 1100 - Sun 1059	DL-DX RTTY Contest	RTTY/PSK31/PSK63
6	Sun 1100 - 1700	DARC 10 m Digital Contest "Corona"	DIGI
12	Sat 0000 - 0400	FISTS Summer Sprint	CW
<b>12-13</b>	<b>Sat 1200 - Sun 1200</b>	<b>IARU HF World Championship</b>	<b>CW/SSB</b>
19-20	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	DMC RTTY Contest	RTTY
19-20	Sat 1800 - Sun 2100	CQ World-Wide VHF Contest	All
19-20	Sat 1800 - Sun 0600	North American QSO Party	RTTY
<b>26-27</b>	<b>Sat 1200 - Sun 1200</b>	<b>RSGB IOTA Contest</b>	<b>CW/SSB</b>

## August 2008

2	Sat 0000 - 2400	TARA Grid Dip	PSK/RTTY
2- 3	Sat 0001 - Sun 2359	10-10 Int. Summer QSO Party	Phone
2- 3	Sat 0001 - Sun 2359	National Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend	All
2	Sat 1200 - 2359	European HF Championship	CW/SSB
3	Sun 1300 - 1630	SARL HF Contest	SSB
9-10	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Worked All Europe DX-Contest	CW
10	Sun 0000 - 2359	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW
16	Sat 0000 - 0800	SARTG WW RTTY Contest (1)	RTTY
16-17	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Keymen's Club of Japan (KCJ) Contest	CW
16	Sat 1600 - 2400	SARTG WW RTTY Contest (2)	RTTY
16-17	Sat 1800 - Sun 0600	North American QSO Party	SSB
17	Sun 0800 - 1600	SARTG WW RTTY Contest (3)	RTTY
30-31	Sat 0600 - Sun 1159	ALARA Contest	CW/SSB
30-31	Sat 1200 - Sun 1159	SCC RTTY Championship	RTTY
30-31	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	YO DX HF Contest	CW/SSB
31	Sun 1400 - 1600	SARL HF Contest	CW
<b>31</b>	<b>Sun 1300 - 1500</b>	<b>IRTS 2m Counties Contest</b>	<b>CW/Phone</b>

## September 2008

6- 7	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	All Asian DX Contest -	SSB
6	Sat 0000 - 2400	Russian "Radio" RTTY WW Contest	RTTY
<b>6- 7</b>	<b>Sat 1300 - Sun 1259</b>	<b>IARU Region 1 Field Day</b>	<b>SSB</b>
7	Sun 0000 - 0400	North American Sprint Contest	CW
13-14	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Worked All Europe DX-Contest	SSB
13-15	Sat 1800 - Mon 0300	ARRL September VHF QSO Party	All
14	Sun 0000 - 0400	North American Sprint Contest	SSB
14	Sun 0000 - 2359	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW
20-21	Sat 0300 - Sun 0300	JLRS Party Contest	Phone
20-21	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	The 50th Scandinavian Activity Contest	CW
20-21	Sat 1800 - Sun 1800	QCWA QSO Party	All
27-28	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW RTTY DX Contest	RTTY
20-21	Sat 0300 - Sun 0300	JLRS Party Contest	CW
27-28	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	The 50th Scandinavian Activity Contest	SSB

For details of smaller contests and links to contest rules and results try the following:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

SM3CER Contest Service <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>

## Denis EI6HB First EI RTTY DXCC



Congratulations to Denis O'Flynn EI6HB on being awarded his RTTY DXCC.

Denis received his award, number 1877, from the DCXX Awards Committee at the ARRL.

Denis is the first EI Radio Experimenter to be awarded a DXCC in the RTTY mode. He has been concentrating on the digital modes over the last few years, however, he does not forget the mainstream SSB and CW modes as he can be heard regularly on the bands.

## South Dublin Radio Club

South Dublin Radio Club took part in the CW Field Day in Ballinasloe over the weekend of June 7/8th. All had great fun.

The club plans a cruise on the Shannon over the weekend of 28th & 29th of June. Listen on for them on the Worked all Ireland (WAI) frequencies.

Regular talks are planned for the usual club meetings on Tuesdays upstairs at the Ballyroan community centre next to the church on the Marian Road in Rathfarnham.

These talks are open to visitors from other clubs and short wave listeners from the greater Dublin area. Normally the talks take place at 8:30pm sharp with tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

One 17th June, Dave Court EI3IO, former Director of CEPT's European Radiocommunications Office, Copenhagen will give a talk entitled Introduction to Spectrum Management.

On 22nd July Tony, EI3GU one of the team members of "Fastnet Force 7" will show a film and answer questions on EJ7FRL, the first and only activation (so far) of Fastnet Rock Lighthouse in 1991.

If you think you could talk on a radio or technology topic then contact the club through the website: [www.southdublinradioclub.ie](http://www.southdublinradioclub.ie)



Jim Holohan EI4HH



Pat O'Connor EI9HX



Thos Caffrey EI2JD



Nicki Mullally EI9JF



Declan Lennon EI9HQ



Paul Norris EI3ENB

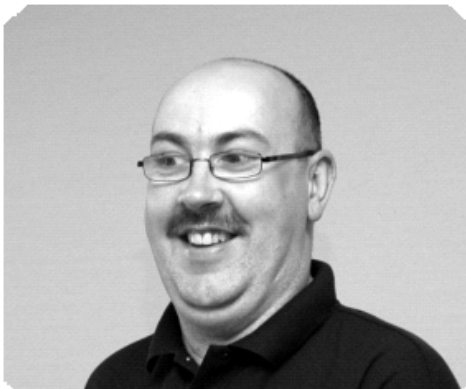


Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX

**Trophy  
Winners  
at the  
2008 IRTS AGM  
in  
Salthill**



Fr. Niall Foley



Enda Broderick EI2II



John Browne EI7FAB



Joe Ryan EI7GY

# Members Advertisements

## For Sale:

Several used PMR Radios suitable for 70MHz at €25.00 each.  
Ring 01-2872908 after 1900

## For Sale:

Icom IC-271H - 2 Metre, 100 watts all mode transceiver, boxed with manual ..... €600  
Trio 2m all mode Transceiver, 10 watts, boxed with manual ..... €200  
Trio TS 811E 430 MHz, all mode 25 watts, boxed with manual ..... €600  
HY Gain antenna AV-12AVQ. Triband HF Vertical, never used, boxed. .... €130  
Haansen FS-710V SWR Meter, boxed. .... €60  
Contact Mike EI5DCB on 086-0693873, or email michael.hoban@02.ie.

**For Sale:** Cushcraft X7 HF Yagi for 10/15/20m. 3 elements on each band, traps only on directors giving virtual monoband performance.  
New price €1,050.00. Brand new in unopened boxes €850.00  
Contact Dave EI4BZ on 087-6290574

**For Sale:** Nevada PS-50 Power Supply. 13.8v @ 40A continuous and 50A peak. New, Boxed .... €100.00  
Weight is 19kgs, so you collect...  
Contact Dave EI4BZ on 087-6290574

## For Sale:

Yaesu HF transceiver FT-890  
Yaesu Power Supply FP-800  
ETM-9C Memory Keyer  
Microset Power Supply Model PT 110  
Daiwa DC Power Supply Model PS-140  
Power Plus Power Supply Model PP - 1203GS  
Contact Sean Lyons on 086-6051494

**Members advertisements are free**

## South Dublin Radio Club Annual General Meeting

The 2008 Annual General Meeting of Dublin Radio Club took place on Tuesday 4th of March.

The Chairperson Tom Mc Grath EI7HT welcomed all those present and outlined the Club's activities during the past year.

The following Officers and Committee were elected;

Chairman:	Jim Holohan EI4HH,
Treasurer:	Paul Eustace EI2GSB,
Secretary:	Mark Condon EI6JK

Ordinary committee members are:  
Tom Mc Grath EI7HT, Daniel EI9FHB, Dave Court EI3IO and Jim Armstrong EI8JR.

## CY0 Sable Island DXpedition

CY0X is the first 6-meter focused DXpedition to CY0 Sable Island since the June 1996 CY0AA operation by Mike, VE9AA and company.

The DXpedition dates (June 25th through July 7th 2008) were chosen to maximize the possibility of transatlantic multihop sporadic-E propagation to Europe, Africa, and the Mideast. They will be on six meters 24 hours a day from the main station in grid FN93 using an 8 element custom M2 Yagi (40 foot boom courtesy of Robby, VY2SS) and Dick's 800 Watt linear amplifier. Operation will be on both CW and SSB and also look for us on meteor scatter. They will be using either Dick's K3 or Pete's Yaesu FT-650 for the main 6 meter transceiver plus a 0.3db NF pHEMT low noise 6m preamp. They will be transmitting on 50.117 MHz.

**Please do NOT send your grid square as it consumes valuable time during an opening.**

They will also try and activate rare grid GN03 if there is a solid opening, using a portable station with a 5 element M2 6M5X Yagi and the call CY0RA.

They plan on also being on HF on 20 meters and 40 meters, CW and SSB – but the HF operation will always take lower priority over the 6 meter operation. HF antennas will be elevated monoband ground-plane verticals for each band, the IOTA island designator is NA-063. The special call sign CY0X commemorates the 225th anniversary of the 1783 Loyalist landing in Nova Scotia <http://www.loyalistlanding2008.org>

## 2 Metres

Equipment for 2 metres will be a Yaesu FT-897D and a Command Technologies Commander II 800 Watt amplifier (3CX800) with built-in ARR SP144VDG GaAsFET preamp. The 2m antenna will be a 30 foot Yagi with at least 14-15dBd gain. Frequencies will be 144.200 MHz when looking to North America, and 144.300 MHz when beaming towards Europe. They will also be monitoring towards Europe between 55 MHz and 144 MHz with a separate VHF antenna for any indications of propagation to Europe, in attempt at the Brendan Trophy <http://www.irts.ie/cgi/brendan.cgi>. Primary indicators include the 70 MHz amateur band, 88-108 MHz commercial FM broadcast (EI, GI, Azores, etc.) and aircraft towers in Shannon, EI, and Santa Maria, Azores. They will be on two metres daily. When looking towards Europe, the antenna will be centred either on EI/GI, or CU3 (which covers F, CT, and EA) depending on propagation indicators. When beaming towards Europe, there will be a CW beacon on 144.300 MHz transmitting the first 30 seconds of each minute. Primary modes are CW and SSB.

If there are no propagation indicators to EU, but there is propagation to North America, they will look that way. The North American frequency is 144.200MHz. When operating CW, the same sequence as above applies. If on SSB, they will take first and third 15 seconds of each minute.

**2m Propagation Modes:** They are hoping for at least some instances of 2m sporadic-E propagation to North America and are also expecting to work quite a few North American 2m stations via tropo or meteor scatter.

When beaming towards Europe, they are hoping for a possible brief 2m opening using mixed-mode propagation such tropo+Es, tropo + meteor scatter, or even double-hop Es.

Sable Island is uniquely situated out in the Atlantic Ocean to be at one end of the first 2m transatlantic terrestrial QSO.

<http://www.cy0x.com>



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## Cork Radio Club Annual Rally

**Montenotte Hotel  
Cork City**

**Sunday 14th September 2008**

Doors open at 11am sharp.

If you require space at the rally please contact Con EI7DJB  
on 021-4270136 or 086-1071312

### AREN News

'Initial reports from GlobalSET held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> seem good. A high percentage of stations who pre-registered were actually heard on the air and made some contacts though there were difficulties in Regions 1 & 3 with getting messages back to the HQ stations.' Band conditions weren't as favourable as for the previous SET.

Four AREN stations were in the air operating from such diverse locations as Donegal, Kerry, Waterford and the UK Midlands.

Thanks to Paul EI5GTB, Conor EI4JN, John EI2GN and Tim EI5GPB for setting up and operating the AREN stations. The next Globalset takes place at the end of the year.

**Irish Radio Transmitters Society**

## The Shop



# 10% discount for IRTS members

As an extra benefit of membership, IRTS has entered into a special arrangement with the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) for IRTS members to get discounted Amateur Radio Books. This dedicated service is based online so is available to you 24 hours a day. The books are delivered by standard post direct to your door and attract a 10% discount for IRTS Members (Some exceptions apply). The range is wide with titles being stocked from RSGB, ARRL, DARC and many others.

**Try it today**

**www.irtsshop.com**





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**ICOM**

NOW IN STOCK:  
**IC-R9500**



**VIBROPLEX**

Icom Inc. have recently launched the new 'top of the range' IC-R9500 wideband base station receiver at the Tokyo Ham Fair 2006. As the successor to the world-renowned IC-R9000/L, there will be a lot of interest from this ultra-wide band receiver that covers 0.005-333.5MHz-frequency range and features technology that is based on and surpasses the IC-7800.

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**LINEAMP UK**  
LINEAR AMPS

#### SPID ROTATORS



These Rotators represent excellent Value for Money and are Applicable for lightweight constructions as for example Yagi, also can be used for weighty short wave antennas. Mechanical part consists of worm gear with worm and wormwheel, made from steel (as shown on the picture). Applied solutions guarantees long, continuous work and high reliability. The advantage is possibility of alignment of worm and wormwheel holding down, which makes it possible to eliminate side play in driving gear, which can appear after long usage time. The surface is painted with anti-corrosion paint.

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- FLEX RADIO - CUSHCRAFT - BHI - LINEAMP UK -**

**Phone: 087-2552578-----091-790224**

**E-mail: INFO@WESCOM.IE-WWW.WESCOM.IE**

# JBT Trading

**MI0JBT Jim Bob Traynor, Limavady, Northern Ireland**

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**[www.mi0jbt.com](http://www.mi0jbt.com)**



## New Icom Radios

### Price List 2008

IC-2200H .....	€234.00
IC-E2820 .....	€494.00
IC-208 .....	€286.00
IC-2725 .....	€364.00
IC-703 .....	€585.00
IC-706 MKIIG .....	€780.00
IC-7000 .....	€1,040.00
IC-7400 .....	€1,274.00
IC-756 PRO III .....	€2,275.00



## New Yaesu Radios

### Price List 2008

FT-7800 .....	€221.00
FT-8800 .....	€286.00
FT-8900 .....	€312.00
FT-817ND .....	€455.00
FT-857D .....	€625.00
FT-897D .....	€615.00
FT-450 .....	€690.00
FT-950 .....	€1,300.00
FT-2000 .....	€2,275.00
FT-2000D .....	€3,120.00

### Used-Radio Price List

IC-7400 .....	€1040.00
IC-756 PRO .....	€1050.00
IC-756 PROII .....	€1560.00
IC-702 Mk1 .....	€440.00
FT-2000D 8 weeks old .....	€2695.00
FT-897D .....	€572.00
FT-857D/Sep Kit .....	€583.70
FT-101ZD MK3 .....	€370.50
FT-102 .....	€440.00
SP-102 Speaker .....	€99.00
FV-102 VFO .....	€245.00
FT-950 .....	€1137.50
TS-850 .....	€695.00
TS-530 .....	€338.00
TS-450 .....	€552.50
TS-2000 .....	€1170.00
TS-50 & AT-50 .....	€650.00

**Trade-ins are always welcome.**

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### Watson Weather Stations €110.00

#### W-8681

#### Wireless Weather Station

This new weather station has just been released and offers more features than any other similar product, and all at an amazing price.



Everything you need is included in the box other than 4 AA cells. You even get a short support mast and clamps to attach the assembled sensors to. There is a generous amount of cable to interconnect the sensors to each other, BUT YOU NEED NO CABLE back to the LCD control console that you use indoors,. That is the beauty of wireless control. You can mount the sensors up to 50m away from the LCD panel and not a cable in sight!

The lovely LCD panel is large and is touch controlled. That's right, you even get a comprehensive touch screen for the price! Customers are bowled over when they look at what they get for the money. Just imagine being able to see all the weather parameters on a screen that is not tethered by cable. You can take the panel around the house and use in any room you like.

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